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TRAVELS
IN
GREECE AND TURKEY,

UNDERTAKEN

BY ORDER OF LOUIS XVI.

AND

WITH THE AUTHORITY OF THE OTTOMAN COURT;

BY

C. S. SONNINI,

MEMBER OF SEVERAL SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY SOCIETIES,
OF THE SOCIETIES OF AGRICULTURE OF PARIS,
AND OF THE OBSERVERS OF MEN.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

Illustrated by Engravings,

AND

A MAP OF THOSE COUNTRIES.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.

VOL. I.

Mores multorum vidit et urbes.

Hox.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR T. N. LONGMAN AND O. REES, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1801,

TRAVELS

GREECE AND TURKEY

BY ORDER OF HOUSE XLI

WITH THE AUTHORITY OF THE OTTOMAN COURT

AND SONNINI



PRINTED BY J. G. KILGUS

OF THE COURT

TRANSLATED FROM THE TURKISH

1801

THE OTTOMAN COURT

1801

1801

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CONTAINED IN THE SEPARATE VOLUME:

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ERRATA.

VOL. I.

Many of the following being typographical errors that may affect the sense, the Reader is requested to mark them with a pen or pencil, before he enters on the work.

Page 38	Line 5,	for lies	read lie
45	— 20,	dele	and
58	— 6,	for those	read these
68	— 8,	for but dry	read but when dry
90	— 17,	for appendage	read appanage
94	— 8, and 10,	for there	read here
100	— 26,	for replaces	read supplies the place of
119	— 16,	for tunney	read tunny
189	— 2,	dele	from view
196	— 25,	for wall-nut	read walnut
213	— 25,	for empirism	read empiricism
216	— 26,	for than	read when
254	— 13,	for mormylus	read mormyrus
271	— 12	Note* for Scuillea maritima	read Scilla maritima
273	— 21,	for appendage	read inheritance
295	— 13,	for cannon	read cannons
297	— 5,	dele	then
311	— 15,	for St. Irena	read St. Irene
312	— 2,	for appendage	read appanage
390	— 11,	for dollars	read piastres
391	— 14,	for orchis	read orchifes

Note. Throughout Chapter III. we have constantly rendered the word *Jauterelles* by *grasshoppers*, which, as is well known, are winged insects of a very devouring nature; but, on reconsideration, we are much inclined to think that the Author means *locusts*, from the length of the flights which he describes these insects to have taken.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Author of the following "*TRAVELS IN GREECE AND TURKEY*," being already known to the Public by his *TRAVELS IN UPPER AND LOWER EGYPT*, two translations of which appeared in our language in the year 1799, it only remains for us to premise that these sheets may justly be considered as a continuation of his itinerary. In his former work, he promised to present to the world an account of the other countries which he had subsequently visited; he has now performed

vol. I. b 1 his

his engagement, and in such a manner as to induce us to presume that those who have felt themselves gratified in travelling with him over EGYPT, will experience no less satisfaction in accompanying him in his tour through GREECE and TURKEY.

Endowed with a solid understanding, and a warm and brilliant imagination, SONNINI enlivens his journal by the variety of his descriptions, and neglects not to bring forward the contrast incessantly presented in GREECE by the magnificence of Nature, the poverty of the inhabitants, the mildness of the climate, and the cruelty of the plunderers who devastate those beautiful countries. His narrative is interspersed with historical anecdotes which recall to mind the enthusiastic heroism of the knights of RHODES, the subtle activity of the Greeks, and the destructive policy of the Ottomans. The

trader will here find every information that can be useful to him for rivalling the indefatigable industry of the French; the naturalist will meet with curious observations on submarine volcanoes, which produce new islands in the sea of the LEVANT, as well as on animals, plants, and minerals, hitherto little known or imperfectly described; the statesman will acquire interesting ideas relative to politics and government; and the moralist will pay a just tribute to the writer, who constantly manifests an ardent zeal for virtue, a generous pity for misfortune, and an honest indignation against tyranny and all the crimes which it engenders.

LONDON, July the 20th, 1801.

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INTRODUCTION.

EUROPE attentive, and the EAST astonished, were looking with eyes full of curiosity and inquietude towards EGYPT, which FRANCE covered with her legions, and with the fertile resources of her genius, with combatants as well as with artists and men of science. A bold project, executed with the rapidity of the thought which had conceived it; vast combinations, supported by all the means of a great power; a new plan of colonization, the advantages of which are inappreciable; the impure seat of barbarism and of the most fanatic ignorance, on the point of becoming the brilliant theatre of civilization and of the arts; the enemy's possessions in INDIA threatened; a sort of dismemberment of

an ill-consolidated empire; the commerce of the LEVANT on the eve of changing its face, and of taking a new direction—every thing contributed to render the expedition to EGYPT a subject of astonishment to some, and of mistrust to others.

This general attention promised a favourable reception to works which, in describing EGYPT, not from books, but from observations made on the places themselves, in journies undertaken solely for the purpose of collecting them, should fix the state of that country, at the moment of the enterprize of the French, and present a statement of the information acquired previously to their arrival. It is, no doubt, to circumstances so favourable that my "*TRAVELS IN UPPER AND LOWER EGYPT*" have owed their success, rather than to the manner in which they were written. We were certain of exciting interest by
the

the picture of a country become the object of every conversation, of every idea; and the Public were disposed to judge with indulgence of the manner and colouring, in favour of the subject.

The traveller who should present himself with an account of his excursions and researches in EGYPT, might expect favour, if to the slightest habit of observation, he should add a sufficiently large portion of that respect which every writer owes to good taste and to the Public, not to shock both by a forgetfulness of propriety, futility of details, aridity of style, stiffness of narration, and, above all, by a positive and disdainful tone, which imposes only on ignorance, and which is itself the criterion of mediocrity; defects which writers do not always endeavour to avoid, and against which one cannot too strongly exclaim.

The honourable reception of my work respecting EGYPT has surpassed my hopes. It has not been confined to my own country; foreigners have participated in the same indulgence*. This, to my feelings, is the sweetest recompense of long labours of no very recent date, which a love for the sciences, and a wish to render myself useful, induced me to undertake, the only one that I am ambitious of, the only one too that I have obtained. This also, in my opinion, is encouragement the most powerful and the most flattering; and I have considered as an obligation, that it imposed on me, to publish my other Travels, which political phenomena, whose commotions change the face of empires, have decided me to draw from my port-

Two English translations of my TRAVELS IN EGYPT have appeared in LONDON; the one in three volumes 8vo. and the other in one volume 4to.

folio, whence they would not otherwise have been taken.

Other countries, in the vicinity of EGYPT, are perhaps, like it, on the eve of experiencing a crisis which will cause them to assume a new aspect. The Ottoman government, like an immense and shapeless colossus, placed on a base of clay, seems ready to fall, and GREECE, which it crushes with its insupportable weight, must ere long, according to every appearance, if not resume her ancient attitude, at least break her chains, and occupy a rank among other nations, in the number of which her ancient and complete slavery prevented her from being reckoned. Whatever may be the new and inevitable destinies of a people formerly famous, the Public will not be sorry to know what they were at the moment of their deliverance and regeneration, and

and to represent to themselves the places which will be the theatre of it, as they were formerly that of memorable events.

A description of some parts of ASIA and ancient GREECE, which might afford a knowledge of their climate, their soil, their productions, their natural history, their present state of decay, their inexhaustible resources of amelioration, and the picture of the manners, the customs, and the genius of the nations that inhabit them; which might offer a curious comparison between their situation a few centuries ago, and that in our days; which, in a word, might, by means of restoration in their agriculture and in their commerce, unfold their claims to a more prosperous condition, was therefore a work not destitute of interest.

And when Peace, too long banished from the earth, yielding at length to the

the wishes of nations, is descending from Heaven, and preparing to close the deep wounds which afflict the human race*; when, through her celestial influence, Guilt is disappearing with Want and Calamity, her melancholy and frightful companions; when Virtue is recovering her energy, and Talent her activity; when the sources of public prosperity, entirely dried up, are going to resume their course of felicity, and revive industry and commerce; when, in short, the want of repairing a time lost for happiness, and mournfully consumed in agitations and misfortune, of seeking in useful speculations, in an active and honourable labour, the forgetfulness of so many ills, and the indemnification of accumulated losses; when this general want is going to

* This introduction was written at the moment of the general armistice, concluded between the French and Imperial armies.

direct to foreign countries the combinations of commerce, the Public will, doubtless, consider as a picture very well calculated to favour these views, the indication of the places which present certain advantages to a kind of traffic that may be established with much ease and little cost.

Under these considerations, the work which I now publish has no fewer claims than the *TRAVELS IN EGYPT* to attention and indulgence. If, notwithstanding the number of travellers who have preceded me in that country, my account has been distinguished, I may venture to expect the same success for this; although it appears after productions no less numerous on the same subject, and among which are likewise to be found some much to be commended.

My *TRAVELS IN GREECE AND TURKEY* are, like those in *EGYPT*, the fruit of near

two years of observation, and I present them with the greater confidence, as I have bestowed the same pains in digesting them.

It is more particularly in the Islands of the ÆGEAN SEA that I have directed my researches, in that multitude of groups of lands and rocks, scattered without order in the middle of this sea, as an eternal monument of its conquest over the continent. Divided by the ancients into CYCLADES and SPORADES, denominations at present forgotten, they are at this day known under the general designation of ISLANDS OF THE ARCHIPELAGO. Although I have not visited them all, the rather long stay which I made in some of them, the intercourse that I had with men who inhabited them, or were perfectly acquainted with them, the information that I acquired in the same countries,

tries, have enabled me to collect certain particulars respecting each of them, and to speak of them with precision.

The Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, most of which are remarkable for the fertility and the beauty of their soil, celebrated in antiquity, and famed for having given birth to great men, are still at this day important points of establishment, communication, or commerce. We have a great interest in being well acquainted with them; and I am of opinion, that my work will leave nothing to be wished for in that respect. This, at least, is the task which I have imposed on myself, and which I have endeavoured to accomplish.

We had already some general descriptions of the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO; one of the most extensive is that of DAPPER; it is the work of a geographer who describes

describes what he has not seen, and only by copying what others had written before him. *TOURNEFORT*, that immortal man, full of science and taste, and whom every traveller, who publishes his accounts, ought to take for a model, has likewise described, but with a different pencil from *DAPPER*, these same Islands of the *ARCHIPELAGO* of the *LEVANT*. But since the travels of the French naturalist, as well as since the description of *DAPPER*, they no longer have the same appearance. The change of masters in some, the consequences of tyranny in all, time and other circumstances, have introduced differences between former accounts and the narrative which I now present. Besides, I shall here repeat what I have already said on the subject of my Travels in *EGYPT*, that it is impossible for the same man to observe every thing; the one collects what escaped him by whom he

was

was preceded; and, in short, in like manner as painters have their particular *style* in representing the same subject, each observer has also his manner of seeing and describing what he has seen; so that the same object may be perceived under different points of view, and the same circumstance be differently related by several persons, and still be interesting.

The form of narrative, indispensable in Travels across countries little known, that which most attaches the reader to the fate of the travellers, whom the passion of discoveries induces to run hazards and dangers, that which I have almost always employed in my work respecting EGYPT, will not be constantly followed in this. The nature of the surface of land and water over which I passed, in every direction and at various times, affords room only for short and dangerless excursions, the

the account of which cannot excite the interest inspired by travels of greater length and abounding more with difficulties. On the other hand, having frequently had occasion to return as I went, and to revisit the same countries, an uninterrupted relation would necessarily lead to tiresome repetitions. I have therefore resolved to speak of the places as they occur on my route, and as if I had followed the order of their position on the chart, omitting the cross and retrograde trips which I made, in fact, for the purpose of visiting them in succession.

A motive, still more powerful, would have been sufficient to determine me to interrupt sometimes the order of my narrative: it is that of truth. I have just said that I had not myself seen every thing; and, though the reader may rely on the information which I have collected

VOL. I. c

lected respecting a few islands where I have not landed, the first of all obligations, for a traveller, being fidelity and exactness in his accounts, I shall take good care not to follow the example of a modern writer, who has filled two volumes with the details of a journey which he had not performed, and who has not even omitted a crowd of minute circumstances, by which the narration assumes every appearance of reality. However, I shall give my itinerary whenever it shall afford any interesting matter. This plan, which I have adopted, because it has appeared to me the most suitable, will, methinks, diffuse in my work a variety of form and style, which cannot but prevent a too uniform tint of monotony, and occasion it to be read with greater pleasure.

It is not, however, to the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO that my excursions

have been limited and that my observations will be confined : the large and beautiful Island of CANDIA, in which I made several journies, some parts of TURKEY in ASIA MINOR, MACEDONIA, and the MOREA, have been the object of my peregrinations, as they will be the subject of my story. In a word, I shall relate all that I have seen, all that I have learned respecting those different countries; and I have, in this respect, followed the advice of the French philosopher, whom we are always fond of reading again and again, and quoting, because, without bewildering himself in abstractions, he leads, by beaten paths, and with ingenuous and admirable sagacity, to the knowledge of the vices of society, and lays open all the recesses of the human heart. “ *We want,*” says MONTAIGNE, “ *topographers, who might give us a particular account of the places where they have been — I would*”

c 2

“ *have*

*“ have every one write what he knows, and
“ as much as he knows, not in that way
“ only, but on all other subjects*.”*

The chart which is annexed to my book, is one of the handsomest and most complete that has been constructed of that extent of sea and land, which is usually distinguished by the name of the **LEVANT**. To my own nautical and geographical observations, I have added those of the seamen, travellers, and geographers, the most modern and the most esteemed; and, in order to give an idea of the pains which I have taken to render this chart as minute and correct as possible, it will be sufficient for me to remark that I have employed, for the northern part of **EGYPT**, the particular chart of **Lake MENZALEH**, which an

* *Essais*, Book i, Chap. iii.

able officer of artillery, the General of Division ANDREOSSY, Inspector-General of the corps of artillery, has very recently published, at the end of two excellent memoirs, respecting some points of LOWER EGYPT*.

Nor to this alone has the assistance which I have received from General ANDREOSSY been confined; he has been so kind as to communicate to me, and to permit me to add to my chart the manuscript plan, which he himself took of the part of the coast of EGYPT comprehended between DAMIETTA and ROSETTA; so that this extent of the shores of the MEDITERRANEAN, hitherto thrown on our charts, as at random, and with

* Mémoire sur le Lac Menzaleh, d'après la Reconnoissance faite en Vendémiaire, an 7.—Mémoire sur la Vallée des Lacs de Natron, et celle du Fleuve sans eau, d'après la Reconnoissance faite les 4, 5, 6, 7, et 8 Pluviôse, an 7.—PARIS, DIDOT aîné, an 8.

which

which it never was more important to us to be well acquainted, is that which is traced with the greatest exactness and precision; thanks to the attention of a distinguished soldier, who, amid the terrible agitations of war, has found means to fix in the camp the timid Sciences, scared by the din of arms, and to join to the dazzling, but ensanguined laurels of valour, the more modest, but fruitful olive, with which they encircle the brow of those who welcome them, and whom they are fond of loading with favours*.

Travels in GREECE at first present to the mind the idea of researches respecting monuments of antiquity. The rea-

* General *Andréoffy* has also just published a very important work, under the title of HISTOIRE DU CANAL DU MIDI, ou CANAL DE LANGUEDOC. 1 vol. 8vo. Paris. *Buisson*, Rue Hautefeuille.

der expects to find in them the description of those splendid edifices which constituted the glory of ancient GREECE, the drawing of some tomb, of some urn, of some antique utensil, the impression of medals, the copy of inscriptions. Observations of this nature are foreign to my book ; travellers enow have indulged themselves in them with success, and I could have done no more than repeat what had been said before me by learned antiquaries, whose knowledge, in that line, I am far from attaining. But a work which would surpass all that has been published on the subject of the history and monuments of GREECE, is that of the man of learning the most distinguished, the most versed in Greek literature, the celebrated DANSSE DE VILLOISON, if he would determine to bring to light the precious materials which he has collected on the spot, a work which
would

XI INTRODUCTION.

would itself be a literary monument worthy of the brilliant days of GREECE, and of the reputation of the author, to which, nevertheless, it could make no addition.

My most sanguine wishes will be accomplished, if my new labours succeed in acquiring the approbation of an enlightened Public. This is the object of all my ambition; well satisfied, and even completely happy if I be permitted to attain it!

Sit mea sedes utinam senectæ;

Sit modus lassæ maris, et viarum,

Militiæque.

HOR. Book ii.

TRAVELS

IN

GREECE AND TURKEY.

CHAPTER I.

A cursory view of Egypt.—The Author, on his return from Upper Egypt, makes a very short stay at Alexandria.—Comparison between Egypt and Greece, between the Copts and the Greeks.—Greek women.—Paradoxes of M. de Pauw.—Approaching change in the political situation of the Greeks.—Dangers of revolutions.

I HAD just spent two years in travelling over one of the most famous countries of antiquity, that in which the arts have displayed the greatest efforts, and struggled with most advantage against time, that which they have, with astonishing profusion, covered with all the works calculated to produce and maintain fertility on a soil, whose riches are as much a conquest of human industry, as a gift of nature.

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nature. EGYPT, independently of the interest and the noble curiosity inspired by the still-imposing ruins of its ancient magnificence, will always, in the eyes of the well-informed man, be a portion of the globe very important from the excellence of its soil, the salubrity of its climate, and its geographical position.

And when our age shall be for posterity a point of antiquity, history will present, as another subject of astonishment and admiration, the enterprise of a powerful and generous people, who, under the direction of a great leader, a man of genius, were desirous that EGYPT should become their new domain, and their richest and most flourishing colony: a vast and bold plan, alternately the object of praise and blame, to which were wanting, to insure its success, only circumstances more fortunate, and perhaps a few preliminary combinations, but the end of which was a certain and incalculable increase of the trade and resources of FRANCE*.

On my return from UPPER EGYPT, I arrived, for the third time, at ALEXANDRIA.

* I have set forth the numerous advantages, the necessary result of the peaceable possession of *Egypt*, in my *Travels* in that country, which I published last year.

The extreme circumspection which Europeans were there forced to employ in all their proceedings, no longer promised me any new researches. Accordingly I soon thought of quitting an enclosure of sands and ruins, the barren habitation of ignorance and barbarism; which the traders of EUROPE did not occupy without being a prey to continual apprehensions, and exposed to frequent dangers, as their vessels were to shipwreck in the only bad harbour that was open to them. I had stripped myself of the long and ample garments in use in the EAST, and which I had worn in the course of my travels in EGYPT, in order to resume the French uniform, in which I found myself at first very uneasy. I long regretted a dress, not so light indeed, but certainly more noble and more decent, and at the same time better calculated for preserving health, because, not compressing any part of the body, it leaves full liberty to its movements and inflexions, as well as to the circulation of the blood and humours, and maintains the suppleness and strength of the muscles and fibres.

My journey, strictly speaking, terminated at ALEXANDRIA. Having sailed from FRANCE on the 26th of April 1777, on board the ATA-

LANTE frigate, which was ordered to visit all the ports of the LEVANT and of BARBARY, I was to follow the same destination; but subsequent instructions changed this destination, and occasioned me to quit the ship at ALEXANDRIA, in order to travel in EGYPT; so that, my fresh instructions not extending beyond this journey, I might, after having accomplished it, return to my country. This was my first project; but I had before me celebrated countries, which the sciences honoured, which the arts embellished, which gave birth to crowds of heroes and great men, and the history of which furnishes the most interesting part of our study, in like manner as their master-pieces are still the admiration and example of those who have preserved a taste for true beauty. The sea of GREECE is seen to spread its waves, whose expansion is retarded and opposed by an immense number of islands, on the inclined shores of EGYPT; a space rather short separates the two countries on which Antiquity prides herself; and, after having visited that which passes for the cradle of the arts and sciences, and from which the Greeks derived a part of their knowledge, I resolved to see also the country which may be called
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the cradle of the graces and of good taste. There, a burning climate does not, as in EGYPT, dry up a soil which ceases to produce, as soon as active industry ceases to cultivate it, and cover it with an abundant moisture. There, we see not those vast, sandy, and arid plains, those naked and heated rocks, forsaken by nature, and which man does not traverse without considerable difficulty and danger. That frightful nakedness by which habitable EGYPT will ever be circumscribed and confined, disfigures not the land of GREECE. There, the temperature is mild, the mountains are covered by forests, the atmosphere is cooled by rains, the vallies are watered by numerous streams, and the soil may be adapted to several kinds of culture.

If, from the comparison of the physical state of the two countries we pass to that of the men who inhabit them, we shall find no resemblance but in the despotism by which they were both enslaved. The Copt or the native of EGYPT, whose character partakes of the dryness and rudeness of the climate, is short and heavy; his head is big, but empty; his face is broad and flat; his complexion is fallow and dark; and his countenance is mean. His disposition is gloomy and me-

lancholy; his treachery is the more dangerous, as it is, in a manner, more centered; having no taste for the arts, no flight of curiosity leads him to instruction; sedentary, because he has no vivacity in his mind, he seeks not to be acquainted with what surrounds him; lazy and slovenly, clownish and ignorant, unfeeling and superstitious, he has no longer any remembrance, nor even any trace remaining, of the greatness of his ancestors.

What a difference between this nation entirely degenerated, and that which still inhabits the beautiful countries of GREECE! Under a pure sky, in a wholesome, temperate atmosphere, impregnated with the sweetest emanations, on a soil which nature decks with flowers, and clothes with the verdure of an eternal spring, or which may be enriched with crops of every sort, or with delicious fruits, we must expect, among the men, to meet only with amenity of manners and sweetness of disposition. I am speaking of the men whose generations there succeed each other without interruption; for the ignorant and untractable usurper may, by his stupid ferocity, pollute the most happy climate, the most smiling country; and ages are required

for their influence to temper, in a perceptible manner, the rudeness of his inclinations.

The man of these charming parts of GREECE is of a handsome stature; he carries his head high, his body erect, or rather inclined backward than forward; he is dignified in his carriage, easy in his manners, and nimble in his gait; his eyes are full of vivacity; his countenance is open, and his address agreeable and prepossessing; he is neat and elegant in his clothing; he has a taste for dress, as for every thing that is beautiful; active, industrious, and even enterprising, he is capable of executing great things; he speaks with ease, he expresses himself with warmth; he is acquainted with the language of the passions, and he likewise astonishes by his natural eloquence; he loves the arts, without daring to cultivate them, under the brazen yoke which hangs heavy on his neck; skilful and cunning in trade, he does not always conduct himself in it with that frankness which constitutes its principal basis; and if we still find in modern GREECE many of the fine qualities which do honour to the history of ancient GREECE, it cannot be denied that Superstition, the child of Ignorance and Slavery, greatly tarnishes their lustre; and we also discover in their

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disposition

disposition that fickleness, that pliability, that want of sincerity, in short, that artful turn of mind which borders on treachery, and of which the Greeks of antiquity have been accused*.

But this obliquity of character fortunately does not extend, or at least is very much weakened, among the women of the same countries. The Greek females are, in general, distinguished by a noble and easy shape, and a majestic carriage. Their features, traced by the hand of Beauty, reflect the warm and profound affections of Sensibility; the serenity of their countenance is that of dignity, without having its coldness or gravity; they are amiable without pretension, decent without sourness, charming without affectation. If, to such brilliant qualities, we add elevation of ideas, warmth of expression, those flights of simple and ingenuous eloquence which attract and fascinate, a truly-devoted attachment to persons beloved, exactness and fidelity in their duties, we shall have some notion of these privileged beings,

* Every one is acquainted with that famous line which paints so well the character of the Greeks:

“Timeo Danaos, ac dona ferentes.”

with

with whom Nature, in her munificence, has embellished the earth, and who are not rare in GREECE. There it is that the genius of the artists of antiquity would still have the choice of more than one model. Mine is in my heart; and if the sketch which I trace of her is still far short of the original, if the fiery touches which are imprinted on my soul, seem to be extinguished on my picture, it is to regret, to affliction, to inquietude, to hope, to the different sensations which are blended and contending within me, that it must be imputed, rather than to the faintness of my colouring. O thoughts alternately delightful and tormenting! O recollections dear and painful!..... But let us drop a pen glowing with the most impassioned sentiments, it would, with difficulty, find favour in the eyes of whosoever has a soul parched up; and, unfortunately, our age has afforded but too many proofs of sullen and cruel insensibility.

What I have just said on the subject of the modern Greeks, is quite contrary to what M. DE PAUW has written of them in his *Recherches Philosophiques sur les Grecs*. It would be extraordinary if such an opposition of sentiment should not be met with between the observer who reports what he has seen,
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and the man of science, who, buried in his closet, pretends to observe better what he does not see. Guided by a rage, by no means *philosophical*, of rejecting facts that would be in contradiction with the system which he has formed for himself, M. DE PAUW admits those only by which he can support it, at the same time accompanying them with arguments, specious indeed, but which betray the labour that they have cost, rather than the art with which they have been arranged.

After having set aside every thing that is not favourable to his opinion, after having thrown out the severest criticism on estimable authors, M. DE PAUW opens a free career to his imagination, and, by suspicious proofs and bold assertions, but presented as incontestable truths, he strives to destroy all received opinions, and observations the least to be doubted. By his account, expressions cannot be found to describe the abasement into which the Greeks are fallen in our days, and into which they fell through their own fault. "This nation," says he, "returned to childhood, is now no more than a vile burden to the earth, the opprobrium of their progenitors, whose tombs they tread under foot without even being acquainted with
" them."

“ them.” It is impossible to be more cruel, nor at the same time more unjust. The women too have their share in these exaggerations of ill-humour and spirit of system. If we must believe the same writer, we should in vain look for beauty in GREECE, where, however, according to him, it formerly shone but very rarely. “ At present,” adds he, “ we should find there, in general, none but “ women absolutely inferior to those of the “ north of EUROPE, whether as to regularity of features, or freshness of complexion and elegance of form: and, in “ some of the countries of GREECE in particular, we should see none but women “ who seem to be unfavoured by nature.” These are erroneous opinions, which it is not uncommon to meet with in the works of M. DE PAUW; and such outrages against a nation towards which we have contracted the habit of interest, blasphemies of this sort against beauty, are so many spots which would disfigure the most philosophical inquiries.

This amiable and interesting people of GREECE are bent under the very heavy yoke of the stern and proud Mussulman; their slavery, like that of the descendants of the
ancient

ancient Egyptians, is absolute and of long standing. The Copts lived in the brutalized stupor of a debased condition. Never could they have dreamt of breaking their chains, had not the French undertaken their deliverance; and the Greeks, although possessing more energy and means, will never themselves shake off fetters, which, notwithstanding, are to them odious. Should an enterprising genius, the friend of glory and of his country, rise up in the midst of them, and offer to lead them to the conquest of liberty, he would find it difficult to draw round him numerous partisans. Reduced to the simple character of leader of a few insurgents, he would have to fight his own countrymen, and he would end by falling a victim to the treachery of some of them; so much does long slavery blunt energy, corrupt the qualities of the soul, and leave to the vices of weakness and abasement alone freedom of action!

But should foreign forces, sufficiently imposing to banish fears, which, in weak minds, are inseparable from the uncertainty of success, make their appearance, not with projects of invasion, but as deliverers of GREECE, insurrection

rection against tyranny would become general; national activity would display all its resources; cohorts of courageous combatants would be formed on all sides; intelligent and active mariners would cover the sea with fast-sailing vessels, which would rapidly carry succours and troops to all the points of the islands and coasts that would become those of the whole nation; all would second and bless their deliverers. The period when one of the finest countries of the globe, that which is the richest in precious recollections, shall be snatched from Ottoman despotism, is not perhaps far distant. The existence of that vast and monstrous empire of the Turks cannot be of long duration; its incoherent parts shake, and are on the point of falling to pieces; on every side Rebellion waves her standards; the authority of the chief of the empire, disowned and insulted without, scarcely extends beyond the walls of CONSTANTINOPLE; a domination, established on ignorance, cannot resist the contact of knowledge; it will be annihilated with the superstitious barbarism to which it owes its origin; and the most cruel and most improvident tyranny will no longer leave any other traces than that by which the life
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of all tyrants is followed, the execration of posterity*.

I have just spoken of revolution, and it is not without trembling that my pen has traced this terrible word. Indeed, there is nothing but the excess of slavery by which a people are oppressed, that can, in future, justify the idea of overthrowing their government. Who would dare, in fact, to advise again those political convulsions, a thousand times more frightful and more disastrous than those with which Nature sometimes terrifies mankind? Who, without the most powerful motives, would dare to expose a nation, naturally rest-

* Here too *M. de Pauw* and I are in manifest contradiction. He blames the elegant author of the *Voyage Pittoresque de la Grèce*, for having urged other nations to the emancipation of the Greeks, for having engraved, on the frontispiece of his book, that signal of vengeance against tyrants, *exoriare aliquis*. He imputes to *M. de Choiseul-Gouffier* the greatest paradoxes; and, supporting himself by the testimony of some Greek monks, who, dreaming only of theology, have assured him that if their countrymen returned to liberty, the first use that they would make of it would consist in undertaking a war of religion, he affirms that the idea of deliverance, impolitical in his eyes, can enter into the heads of none but those who are unacquainted with the density of the darkness in which the mind of the modern Greeks is enveloped.—See the *Recherches Philosophiques sur les Grecs*.

filess and turbulent, to the shocks, to the ravages, to the ills inseparable from those great innovations in the body social? In that country, at least, we should have nothing to regret, not even the appearance of repose which there reigns, and which, in truth, is only the abjection of misfortune and the sleep of bondage. There, no violation of public faith, no infraction of the most sacred engagements, would plunge into misery and despair a crowd of unfortunate beings, whose complaints and cries have served elsewhere only to embolden impudent plunderers. There, where property is often a claim to exactions, where commerce, agriculture, and industry, are no more than titles which expose to excesses and persecutions, property and the arts cannot but be strengthened and extended by expelling the barbarians who are their scourge; while in the most civilized countries of EUROPE, become the prey of a horde of ambitious triflers, every thing has been overthrown, confounded, and swallowed up.

CHAPTER II.

Flourishing state of the French trade in the Levant, during the war of 1778.—Its total ruin, which has involved that of Marseilles.—Causes of these misfortunes.—Reflections on this subject.—Order of the King and Firman of the Grand Signior transmitted to the Author.—The authority of the Porte null in Egypt.—Writing of the Turks; offices of their ministers; manner in which business is conducted there; their writers; their paper.—Translation of the Firman.—Departure from Alexandria.—Quails.—Birds.

WAR, the minister of death and desolation, had been kindled in EUROPE during my travels in AFRICA. Rival governments had armed the one against the other two nations calculated for mutual esteem. The rupture between FRANCE and ENGLAND had, by some months, preceded my return to ALEXANDRIA; but no hostility was exercised in the seas of the LEVANT; the French there continued their trade as in the midst of peace. A single frigate from TOULON was sufficient

for escorting thither in safety a convoy of sixty or eighty sail, and for protecting them against the attacks of any of the enemy's privateers, which scarcely ventured to cruise near the coast of ITALY, in the seas of CORSICA and SARDINIA, or in the canal of MALTA, but seldom ever durst enter the sea that washes the coasts and islands of TURKEY. A number of vessels, which had sailed from the ports of PROVENCE, and were intended to be supported for three years at the expense of the Turks, whose merchandise they shipped, and whose money they brought back, at the same time that they formed a multitude of sailors, had not relaxed their active and useful carrying-trade. In short, if the rage for mutual destruction was spread on some points of the ocean, the blood of men stained not the waters of the most eastern part of the MEDITERRANEAN; and the French flag was flying there as in its own domain.

What unfortunate changes have happened to interrupt the course of so prosperous a commerce? What fatal influence has converted a situation so flourishing, and which its duration seemed to render unchangeable, into a series of humiliations, into the total ruin of the trade of the LEVANT? By what

fatality has a nation, the old and faithful friend of FRANCE, which ceased not to surround her with confidence, with privileges, with prerogatives, appeared suddenly in the ranks of her enemies? Its ports, where the French possessed a preponderance almost exclusive, are shut against them; the *caravane** is annihilated, and the national flag is no longer acknowledged in the seas of which it enjoyed the empire.

And thou, whose origin goes back to the brilliant ages of GREECE, brilliant colony of the Phocæans, to whom the Gauls were indebted for a knowledge of the fine arts; thou, who, by thy schools and the urbanity of thy inhabitants, wast for a long time the rival of ATHENS; thou, who gavest birth to the most ancient of known travellers, to PYTHEAS, a man of letters and a celebrated astronomer, who carried towards the North his taste for observation, before the age of ALEXANDER†; thou, whom great men and

* Thus was called the carrying-trade which the French vessels exercised in the seas of the LEVANT, at the expense of the Turks, and which was a source of riches for commerce, and of prosperity for the marine. These vessels were named *navires-caravaneurs*.

† That is to say, before the year 327.

great exploits rendered illustrious; thou, in short, whom the most flourishing trade rendered, not long since, queen of the MEDITERRANEAN, MARSEILLES! what is become of thy lustre? Thy riches, thy industrious activity, thy splendour, all has disappeared: to peaceful commercial speculations, to useful transactions of barter have succeeded the noisy flock of the passions, the fury of discord, the firebrands of civil war; thy establishments, thy work-shops, are forsaken or annihilated, and their ruin has involved that of the manufactories of LANGUEDOC, which furnished woollen cloths for the consumption of the Orientals; thy numberless ships, with which the MEDITERRANEAN was covered, unmailed and unrigged, and crowded into a port half choked up, are decaying in inaction; thy quays, formerly so full of bustle, so tumultuous from the continual conveyance of the riches of the two Worlds, are deserted; grass clothes the pavement of thy streets, in which was seen a crowd of busy and laborious men; desolation reigns within thy walls, still tinged with the blood of several of thy inhabitants; and widows in tears, children in despair, recall in vain, by their sighs and their sobs, husbands and parents

fallen under the axe of the executioner, or the poniard of the assassin.

The source of so many losses and calamities proceeds from general disorganization, which, in a very short space of time, effected in FRANCE the dissolution of the body social, and converted the finest empire of the universe into an ensanguined theatre of disorders, misery, and confusion. Since men have been found wicked enough, audacious enough, to accumulate ruins on a soil where every thing announced prosperity, order, and splendour; and to replace scenes the most magnificent and the most agreeable by images the most terrible and most afflicting, why should we not have the courage to reproach them with their crimes? Men for ever detestable, who had only the rage and the transports of ambition without having its genius; who have not blushed to assume a power, I will not say too much above your capacity, you had none but that of impudence, yet which, you well knew, was to be in your hands only the power of doing mischief, what account will you give of the flourishing state in which you found FRANCE, and of the situation, truly deplorable, in which you have left her? What have you
privately

privately done with those riches, with those numerous advantages which we derived from our LEVANT trade? Under your frightful domination calamities alone have prospered; every thing that was good, respectable, or useful, has been swallowed up. The policy of governments may change, and indeed changes but too frequently; but moral ideas are immutable and eternal; it is the forgetfulness of them, or rather their absence from your heart that has caused you to plunge so rapidly into an abyss of crimes, and errors, whence, by a most impetuous and impure overflow, you inundated FRANCE and the neighbouring countries, with violations of principles and rights the most sacred, with excesses against humanity, with false combinations, with inconsiderate enterprises, with rapine, outrages, and disorders. Your tyranny, the most heavy that ever oppressed mankind, and at the same time the most insulting, because you had established it on a derisive appearance of liberty, had enchain'd the most generous flights; and universal torpor had deprived genius of all spring, and virtue, of all energy. What time will it not require to repair your crimes? And

we shall not even be revenged by remorse; of that you are not susceptible.

A situation so deplorable would be hopeless in every other country except FRANCE; but, to the picture of her misfortunes, which we must strive to forget, let us substitute the consoling description of her resources: they are immense; and they will still increase under the shade of the fructifying olive of peace. O Peace! may thy sacred name be found in every mouth as in every heart! Daughter of Heaven! Prosperity, virtue, pure joy, industrious activity, every blessing accompanies thee; mayst thou, resplendent with this train of felicity, diffuse thy favours and bounties over the desolated land, which has been but too long moistened by the blood of men! Then, let us not doubt it, under a wise and enlightened government, strong, but just, our country emerging from her long abjection, shall soon recover her brilliant and ancient advantages; we shall see every part of public economy ameliorated, and the trade of the LEVANT, more flourishing than ever, will again pour its treasures into our beautiful southern departments.

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The advantages which I had enjoyed in my journey in EGYPT, were almost the same with respect to the new travels that I was going to undertake. In fact, although the special mission, with which I had been charged, was, as I have said in the preceding chapter, nearly accomplished on my leaving EGYPT, I was still the bearer of an order from the king which authorized me to prolong my travels, and extend my researches and observations into all the countries which I should think likely to inspire any interest; and it was enjoined to all the governors, intendants, and other agents of government in foreign parts, to protect and assist me with their means and credit; so that I ceased not to be considered as an envoy of the French government, travelling by order of the king.

On the other hand, the French ambassador at CONSTANTINOPLE had been charged by our ministry to procure me an order from the Grand Signior, which should authorize me to visit his vast domains. This *firman*, thus are called the ordinances of the PORTE, had reached me at CAIRO; and, indeed, it would there have been a very bad recommendation. The beys had rendered themselves independent, or nearly so, of the Turkish Emperor.

Emperor. The pacha, whom he maintained there, was no more than a phantom of authority that the chiefs of the Mamalûks caused to disappear or be changed at their pleasure. The brave and audacious MURAD, already reigned in CAIRO as absolute master; the will of that stern tyrant was there the sole law, and the officer that the Sultan sent thither, under the derisive title of governor, lived there without power as without influence, and had no other resource for maintaining himself in so precarious a situation, than those of narrow and low minds, of fomenting dissensions between the beys, and of charging Discord with a task which he would not have dared to undertake himself; that is, of stopping the career of a violent and usurping ambition.

The Turks were despised at the court of these foreigners, who, from the condition of slaves, passed to the absolute government of EGYPT; less brisk in their movements, more grave in their gait, less skilful in managing a horse, they were an object of pleasantry and derision in the eyes of the young and spruce Mamalûks, of which the families of the princes, not long ago their equals, and since their masters, were composed. Accordingly these

these same despots had no consideration for the emperor of TURKEY, whom they regarded rather as an enemy importunate through a remnant of pretensions, than as their sovereign. To avail myself with MURAD Bey of any documents emanated from the government of CONSTANTINOPLE, would have been to call in question his power, kindle his indignation and his anger, and expose myself to the sudden effects of his passion*.

It was therefore, on my part, a necessary act of prudence to keep secret the document which insured me the protection of the Grand Signior; it would not have failed to involve me in some difficulty, and to cost me some exaction. I obtained from MURAD Bey himself recommendations more safe and more proper.

But, if this firman had been useless to me in EGYPT, it became of great service to me

* In my work respecting *Egypt*, I have drawn the portrait of *Murad*, the only bey who found means to preserve his authority so long; a tyrant uneducated and despotic, but become celebrated by the honour which he has had of fighting the French, and to whom we cannot deny much bravery, some military talents, and a few qualities of mind, which evince its elevation, such as great liberality, with which he has contrived to attach to himself, and preserve a number of partisans.

in the new travels that I purposed to undertake. Although the *lands and seas of Egypt* only were mentioned in it, this sign of protection was not, on that account, of less advantage to me in TURKEY; it procured me regard and attention on the part of the governors and private commandants. I never unrolled it in vain: at the sight of it, the haughty pacha, the stern aga, and all those subaltern tyrants who rend, rather than govern, the Ottoman empire, became tractable and obliging; they lifted it to their forehead in token of respect, and I seldom failed to obtain from them what I wished. In the eyes of the multitude, I appeared an important personage; since their sovereign condescended to concern himself about me; and by saving me from some unpleasant incidents and embarrassments, which I should not have avoided without this sort of talisman of despotism, they considered me as entitled to their respect and consideration.

Though the oriental languages are beginning to make some progress among us, and though many persons are acquainted with Turkish writing, I have thought that people, in general, would not be displeased to see here the form of the ordinances issued by
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the Ottoman government, and I have caused my firman to be engraved. (See Plate II.) The Turks, as is well known, like the Arabs, write from right to left; they distinguish ten sorts of characters in their writing; and they call *divouani* those which are employed in the official papers of the divan.

The Turks write but little. The offices of their ministers are not filled with a crowd of clerks, mutually causing each other restraint and distraction, nor encumbered by heaps of papers, which no one reads. Business is there transacted with the greatest simplicity; correspondence with men in office is very rare, and, with the exception of the emphatical amplifications of oriental etiquette, it is freed from useless and dull prolixity. When a person has any thing to ask of the great, he prefers speaking to writing, because they listen and answer otherwise than by insignificant and common phrases, which, being addressed to every body, suit no one, and evince as much the fatigue and sometimes the indifference of him who pronounces them, as the folly of him who gives credit to them; because, in short, these same men in power, being secure from importunities and solicitations, are of easy access.

On the other hand, where the generality of the inhabitants scarcely either trouble themselves, or care to trouble themselves, about public affairs, ambition is confined within a very narrow circle, and concentrated among very few persons. Accordingly the demands for employments are extremely rare; and, with the exception of some petitions presented in the view of obtaining reparation for exactions or acts of injustice too common in the delegates of the PORTE, there are not delivered into its offices that prodigious quantity of memorials, petitions, and remonstrances, which ambitious and bustling intrigue multiplies on such flight grounds and to so little purpose among us, and which, commonly, are calculated only to occasion a loss of time to those who draw them up, as well as to those who answer them.

The oriental writers do not place themselves near a table. They are seated on a cushion, with their legs crossed and turned in under their garments. They write on their knees, and they almost always have the long pipe in their mouth. The paper which they employ comes from EUROPE; but it is smoothed and glazed in TURKEY, in order that the reed pen, of which they make

make use, may glide with greater facility. My firman is written on a large sheet of this glazed paper; it is twenty-nine inches in depth, by twenty in width*. At the top is the cypher of the Sultan ABDOUL ACHMET; at the bottom, the signature of the *reis effendi*, or minister for foreign affairs; and on the folds, different marks necessary to authenticate papers of this kind. I give, as a note, the translation of it; for this I am indebted to JAUBERT, a young and learned professor of oriental languages in PARIS. It must be observed that, for fear of giving umbrage to the Turks, always uneasy respecting the intentions of travellers who visit their country, I was presented to the divan as a trader. Thus it was that in EGYPT the protection of the beys of CAIRO and of the Arabic princes was granted to me as to a physician; and this imaginary ægis, founded on the vulgar credulity of barbarous men, as much as on their wish to prolong their own existence, was of no small service to me, and preserved me from a multitude of embarrassments and

* The *Paris* foot is equal to 12. 789 English inches.

dangers†.

dangers†. The sea of the LEVANT being, as I have said, absolutely free, notwithstanding

† TRANSLATION OF THE FIRMAN.

(Here is the Sultan's cypher.)

Most just, most noble, most great, most glorious, most respectable governor, who knows how to manage the most important affairs of this world, with intelligence and discernment, and whose superior solicitude extends with wisdom and benignity over the poor of the state; pillar of the glorious empire, illustrious governor of *Egypt*, our fortunate vizir *Mohammed* pacha: may God increase his glory!

Most just of the cadis of *Ismaelism*, treasure of virtues and truths, deeply read in the laws and in religion, heir of the science of the prophets and apostles, specially loaded with the favours of the most high, learned cadi of *Cairo* in *Egypt*, may God increase his virtues!

Happy successors of the cadis and princes, abundant mines of nobleness and virtues, who, in our fortunate name, govern the empire of the lands and seas of *Egypt*; may God increase their merits!

Lieutenants, leaders of troops, janizaries, and other commandants, may God increase their power, and raise them in dignity!

When this noble firman shall have reached you, know that:

The ambassador and the consuls of the King of *France*, our powerful friend, the support of the great of this world; the model of christian princes (may his end be happy!) having caused to be represented to us that it would be expedient to grant to the merchants who wish to travel in the states (well-guarded) of our glorious empire, supreme orders

ing the war between the principal maritime powers of EUROPE, I had no precaution to

orders for them to be therein treated with safety and protection, conformably to the treaties:

And a Frenchman, named *Sonnini*, who has the intention of repairing to *Cairo* in *Egypt*, having made known to us that he begs us to cause to be delivered an order issued by our sublime *Porte* to all those who exercise our authority over the lands or over the seas of *Egypt*, to the end that he may reside there, or travel there freely, without fear or hindrance whatever:

And being desirous that, agreeably to our intentions and our express commendations, he should be protected by our sovereign orders, stamped with our noble seal,

We direct that:

When this order, issued by our sublime *Porte*, shall have reached you, the aforesaid Frenchman may freely travel over the lands and seas above-mentioned, dependent on our glorious empire; that he may at pleasure enter them, leave them, or reside in them, conforming himself in all things to our sovereign orders, and that there shall be every where granted to him aid, succour, and protection.

And to the end that the contents of these orders may leave you no doubt, we have graced them with our noble and eminent signature, to which you will give credit; we recommend it to you. Understand it thus.

Given in the beginning of *Sefier*, in the year of the *he-gira* 1192 (February 1778, O. S.)

At CONSTANTINOPLE the well-guarded.

(Translated by Citizen JAUBERT, Turkish professor in the special school of Oriental languages, near the national library, fifth interpreter to the government.)

take

take in the short voyage which I had to perform; and as I had, besides, no other object, but that of visiting some of the countries of GREECE and of TURKEY, it was of little consequence to me, whether I began my excursions by one place or by another. I therefore availed myself of the first vessel that was to sail from the harbour of ALEXANDRIA; and, after having taken leave of my fellow-travellers in EGYPT, I embarked on board a Provencal polacre*, a *caravaneur*, laden with productions of EGYPT and ARABIA, on account of some Turkish merchants of the Island of CANDIA.

* A polacre is a small vessel with three masts, which are pole-masts, that is, consisting of a single stick, without tops or cross-trees, so that the top-gallant-sails and top-sails lower on the lower yard: which, in French, is called *amener en paquet* (lowering all together). This mode of rigging is advantageous, inasmuch as, in case of being caught in a squall, the sails can be lowered all at once; but, indeed, it suits none but vessels of no great burden, for the masts of a large ship cannot be made of sufficient strength if they were formed only of a single stick. Polacres are very much in use in the navigation of the *Mediterranean* Sea, where fast-sailing vessels of a small draught of water are more necessary than elsewhere, and where they have frequently to experience short, but sudden and heavy squalls.

We

We set sail on the 17th of October, 1778, at seven o'clock in the morning, with a pleasant breeze at east; it soon carried us out of sight of the hillocks, and of the famous pillar, which serve as land-marks on making ALEXANDRIA.

The war caused so little uneasiness in these seas, that the polacre, on board of which I was, carried no artillery; and, with the exception of my arms, there was not a single piece on board.

In the small quantity of provisions which I had shipped, the most abundant sort consisted of quails, taken alive in the environs of ALEXANDRIA. The extraordinary number of these birds which arrive in autumn on the coast of EGYPT, renders them, at that period, one of the most common dishes. When, in our fields, we have seen quails with short wings and tail, a round body, little calculated for cleaving the air, when we have seen them, I say, rise heavily, and with difficulty take a low flight of short duration, we are surprised to meet with them again on shores so distant, subject, like other birds of passage, to regular migrations; weaker than those, quails also venture to make long journeys: with an unsteady flight, they skim the

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surface of the waters, avail themselves of every point of repose afforded them by a sea intersected by scattered lands, and ploughed by numbers of vessels, and in this manner reach, from island to island and from vessel to vessel, the shore of EGYPT. But the flocks of these feeble and innocent travellers are far from arriving entire; an impetuous wind plunges them into the waves; the shelter and rest which they seek with eagerness on the islands and on board ships, to them become occasions of destruction. Man is every where to devour them; and when, after so many dangers and fatigues, they alight on a land on which they arrive from such a distance to seek a mild temperature that our climates deny them, when at length folding their wings, which they would no longer have strength to extend for some time, they are preparing to spread themselves over fertile plains, and there enjoy, till the ensuing spring, the warmth of the atmosphere and abundance of food, unfeeling and cruel man again makes his appearance, and, taking advantage of their state of debility, which prevents them from running and flying, envelops them in nets and shuts them up without pity in cages, in order that they may be afterwards abandoned

doned to his voracity. These cages, made in EGYPT, are of wicker; the top is of canvass, in order that the quails may not split their head by raising themselves vertically and with vivacity: a barbarous precaution, when we are waiting till it is convenient to put to death with our own hands innocent animals.

Other birds had freely taken up their quarters on our floating habitation, and animated its dry and insipid monotony. Some sparrows picked up on the deck the small fragments of our meals; while the frisky wagtail*, of a familiarity more amiable, because it bespoke nothing impudent, by a continuance of skips and short and quick flights, rid us of a part of the insects by which we were incommoded. It seemed that these little winged navigators would have wished to seek with us a more grateful soil, plains more agreeable than the melancholy and arid environs of ALEXANDRIA, and that they would have manifested their gratitude for the undisturbed hospitality which they enjoyed among us.

* *Lavandière*. BUFFON, Hist. Nat. des Ois. et planche enluminée, No. 642. *Motacilla alba* LINN.—*Ang.* White wagtail.

But the very day after our departure, the wind having shifted to the west, and threatening a storm, the sort of open aviary which we had seen formed, disappeared. Our feathered guests, doubtless, foreseeing a violent agitation in the atmosphere, took leave of us, and, favoured by the wind, they directed their flight towards the coast of SYRIA, or the Isle of CYPRUS: we were, in fact, at no great distance from that island, the most eastern and one of the finest in the MEDITERRANEAN.

CHAPTER III.

Position of the Island of Cyprus.—Its names.—Henné.—Ruins of the Island of Cyprus.—Its mines.—Gold.—Copper.—Vitriol.—Iron.—Crystal.—Precious stones.—Jasper.—Asbestos.—Talc.—Plaster.—Ochre.—Marine salt.—Agriculture.—Olive-trees.—Mulberry-trees.—Carob-trees.—Cotton.—Sugar-cane.—Coffee-tree.—Gardens.—Various species of corn.—Grasshoppers.—Madder.—Coloquintida.—Ladanum.—Soda.—Wood.—Wool.—Wine.—Turkey leather.—Cotton.—Manufactures.—Import-trade.

PLACED in the vast gulf which terminates the MEDITERRANEAN to the east, the Island of CYPRUS seems intended to secure the command of that sea*. Towards the north, and at

* It is necessary to recall to mind here what I have announced in my Introduction. During travels, which consisted only of a series of excursions on lines of no great length, and crossing each other incessantly, it would be to

at no considerable distance, are the winding coasts of CARAMANIA, formerly CILICIA; those of EGYPT, more remote, face it to the south, and the shores of SYRIA, on which the MEDITERRANEAN stops, lies not far from it to the west†; the ancients even thought that it had made a part of that country, and that one of those violent commotions of the globe, which we find at very distant periods in the history of ages, had thence detached it, as SICILY from ITALY, and several other islands from different parts of the continent.

No place in the world has, perhaps, received more names than this island. PLINY gives an enumeration of them, and he does not quote them all‡. They have exercised, with more or less success, the fluctuating art of etymologists. It is not, for example, a very happy conjecture to have ascribed the derivation of

expose myself to tiresome repetitions to adhere scrupulously to the itinerary; I therefore describe objects as they present themselves, and in the order which they occupy on the Chart, for the purpose of diffusing greater perspicuity in the narration, and of not compelling the reader to tread back his steps repeatedly, as I frequently did myself.

† The Island of *Cyprus* is situated in latitude 35° north, and longitude 33° east from the meridian of *Greenwich*.

‡ Hist. Nat. lib. v. cap. 31.

the

the name of *CERASTIS* or *CERASTIA*, *Horn Island*, to the island having been formerly inhabited by horned men, who have never existed any where ; while it was more natural to imagine that this denomination arose from the multitude of narrow capes or points by which its coasts are furrounded, and which bear some resemblance to long horns projecting into the sea.

The ancient Greeks were more generally acquainted with the Island of *CYPRUS* by the name of *KUPROS* ; and that of *KUPRIS*, which they gave to *VENUS*, indicated that the worship of that goddess had come to them from this place. Etymologists are not agreed as to the origin of this word *KUPROS*. Some affirm that it is the name of a hero ; but this hero is unknown in the annals of antiquity. Some are of opinion that the abundance and the beauty of the copper which this land contains in its bosom, has occasioned to be given to it the name of a metal, which, being found formerly in metallic masses, and less difficult to melt than iron, was employed, long before, for fabricating weapons and implements of agriculture*. Others, in short, discover the

* *Histoire Naturelle des Minéraux*, par BUFFON, article *cuivre*. Vol. ii. page 224. SONNINI's edition.

origin of *KUPROS* in the name of a shrub, celebrated by the ancients, much in use still among the modern Orientals, and in which the Island of *CYPRUS* carried on a considerable traffic.

This tall shrub, which the Hebrews called *kopher*, and the Greeks *kupros*, is the *henné*, or *hanna* of the Arabs, and the *kanna* of the Turks*. It embellishes and perfumes with its blossoms the gardens of the Island of *CYPRUS*, like those of *LOWER EGYPT*. Its flowers, whose tender and delicate shades have so much analogy to the soft and animated tints of beauty, form, as heretofore, its most usual and most esteemed bouquet. The women still delight to adorn themselves with it, and place it in their bosom†; the powder of its leaves, dried, also serves them to dye with a durable bright orange colour all their nails, as well as the palm of their hands and the sole of their feet. This is a general custom in

* *Lawsonia inermis, foliis subsessilibus ovatis, utrinque acutis.*
 LINN. Syst. Nat. octrandr. monogyn. I have given, in the greatest detail, the history, description, and figure of this charming shrub, in my *Travels in Upper and Lower Egypt*, vol. i. page 292, and following.

† *Solomon's Song*, chap. i. v. 13 and 14.

TURKEY, and in several other countries of the EAST; it originates, according to every appearance, from the astringent quality of the henné, calculated for checking on those parts of the body the perspiration more copious, and at the same time more inconvenient and more disagreeable than elsewhere, in these hot climates. It is not easy to account in like manner for the practice of also colouring the nails, on which a solid coat, of a reddish dye, does not replace with advantage the pale rose colour that is natural to them. It is, perhaps, to make the extremity of the fingers match with the under part of the hands and feet, which a bright and deep tint would throw out in too abrupt a manner, did not some surrounding parts soften the tone by partaking of it; unless we prefer saying that the women of all countries have most frequently spoiled the gifts which they have received from Nature, even by the pains that they have taken to preserve or improve them. Beauty is a delicate flower, whose lustre is transient; relentless time undermines and destroys it; and to endeavour, by means foreign to Nature, to avoid or delay an end which Love laments, but for which the qualities of the heart and the charms of the mind console and indemnify,

nify, is, on the contrary, to hasten it. Who ever thought of loading flowers with the coarse mixture of our colours? And what pencil would dare to add any tint to the carnation of the rose, the velvet down of the amaranthus, or the pale gold of the clusters of the henné?

Of all the ancient names of the Island of CYPRUS, that which we love to recall to mind, although it forms a strange contrast with its present situation, is *MACARIA*, the *Fortunate Island*. For this name it was indebted to the fertility of its soil, the mildness of its climate, the inexpressible beauty of its plains, and the richness of its productions. The imagination of the poets lent new charms to this profusion of the gifts of Nature; they made it the cradle of the mother of the Loves; they consecrated this agreeable idea, by the name of *CYTHEREA*, and embellished it with all the charms of the most delightful descriptions, with graceful scenes of tenderness and voluptuous enjoyment.

Over this theatre, in former times consecrated to happiness, to the arts, and to pleasure, at this day reign barbarians, who have transformed it into an abode of destruction and slavery. Superb edifices, elegant temples, where the most beautiful, as well as the most
amiable

amiable of divinities was adored on altars surrounded by the sweetest and most voluptuous birds; living emblems of love and fidelity, now cover and sadden, with their scattered remains, places of which they constituted the ornament and glory; and the Turks consume even the very ruins, which they still mutilate, in order to employ the fragments for common and profane purposes. Here, where the Graces reigned, at this day commands an old *mosalem* or governor, who scares them. Under a destructive government, agriculture has ceased to enrich with her treasures beautiful plains; and the splendour of an island, formerly *fortunate*, has vanished.

The riches which it contains in its bosom are more deeply buried by despotism than by the earth with which they are covered. All boring, all search after mines, is strictly prohibited; and copper, formerly so abundant in the island, that the ancients likewise distinguished it by the epithet of *ÆROSA*, *Copper Island*, remains useless in the bowels of the mountains that contain it, as well as zinc, tin, iron, and other minerals which rendered it famous.

Should the Island of CYPRUS one day pass from this state of oppression to a political situ-

ation more mild and more favourable to its commerce and industry, we shall then search after all these mineral riches, and the working of them will powerfully contribute to revive the ancient splendour of the country in which they are contained; and as changes, so desirable, are, perhaps, not very remote, or at least I love to indulge the hope, it will not be useless to enter here into a few details respecting the nature of these subterraneous treasures.

Gold, the end and motive of almost all human actions, and which corruption, ever-increasing, will long render the object of the warmest wishes and ardent wants of the greater number, was, as I have said, found in mines in the Island of CYPRUS; but they have been for ages abandoned, and tradition can scarcely assign the places where they were found. We must not take in a literal sense, nor above all refer to our age, a passage of DAPPER, who, in his description of the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, *page 52*, asserts that there is in the middle of the island, near the town of NICOSIA, as well as in the environs of CHRUSOCCO, mines of gold, where workmen are almost continually employed.

These

These indications, which DAPPER published in 1703, are extracted from another description of the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, printed in 1610, the author of which, THOMAS PORCACHI, had taken them from the ancient writers. Not that, in fact, the gold mines were not in the environs of CHRUSOCCO, a village near the gulf of that name, which occupies the place of ACAMANTIS, an ancient town, one of the most considerable of the island; some were known too in the vicinity of TAMASSUS, where stands the modern FAMAGUSTA, and at the foot of Mount OLYMPUS, in a district celebrated for its wines; but the traces of ancient works have there disappeared, and the veins of a precious metal wait, in order to be discovered and followed anew, the return of a protecting government, which regards not as crimes the strenuous efforts of industry towards useful speculations, and to which are attached public prosperity and the affluence of individuals.

But searching, which would attain with still greater certainty these two objects, that are the constant aim of every government anxious to preserve the esteem of nations and its own existence, would be that which would tend to recover the copper mines, formerly

II

so abundant and so renowned. It is particularly in the territory occupied by a famous city of antiquity, *AMATHUS*, the site of which is at present occupied by the ancient *LIMASSOL*, that the researches ought to be directed; it is in this district, where those metals abound*, that we should again discover that beautiful primitive copper, which Nature herself has purified, and elaborated in large masses, in order to deliver it quite prepared to human industry, and which no longer exists in the exhausted mines of the Old Continent. The copper of *CYPRUS* was, in ancient times, the finest in the world, and its rich and primordial mines furnished the first blocks of that metal, which were brought into use. It was principally sought for the purpose of composing that famous Corinthian brass, a precious mixture of copper, gold, and silver, the proportions of which are unknown to us, and which was in great esteem among the Greeks.

The species of natural vitriol, the blue or azure vitriol, which still retains the name of *CYPRUS vitriol*, was found in abundance in the copper mines of which I have just spoken.

* *Gravidamque Amathunta metallis*, has *OVIO* said in his *Metamorphoses*.

The ancient TAMASSUS furnished a great quantity of it; but the best was drawn from the district of CHRUSOCCO, the vitriol mines of which were still worked towards the end of the seventeenth century.

The iron mines lie scattered, and in a quantity sufficiently large to supply the wants of the Cypriots and the trade of the neighbouring countries.

In the rocks is also found a very fine rock-crystal, which is called the *BAFFA diamond*, because it is procured from the environs of BAFFA, a barbarous word, which has taken the place of that of PAPHOS. The mountains in the vicinity of Cape CROMACHITI and of Cape ALEXANDRETTA likewise contain some.

The bowels of the high mountains contain other riches less important than metallic mines, because they are useful to luxury alone. These are emeralds, amethysts, peridots, opals, &c. The Scythian jasper was reputed the best among the ancients; next came the Cyprian, and lastly, the Egyptian. The river PEDICUS, which takes its source in the mountains at no great distance from NICOSIA, rolls down, with its limpid waters, fragments of very fine red jasper.

Asbestos,

Asbestos, or the incombustible flax of the ancients, is still as plentiful as it was formerly; the quarry which furnishes it is in the mountain of ACAMANTIS, near Cape CHROMACHITI.

Talc is common, especially near LARNICA, where it is employed for white-washing houses; and there are numerous quarries of plaster. Those of marble afford it in abundance for building. But at present there are scarcely worked any of those, which yield none but a common white marble, of little consistence.

Of all the treasures which the earth conceals, the Turk, who knows only how to desolate it, allows not the unfortunate islanders any trade but in yellow ochre, umber, and *terre verte*, substances common in CYPRUS, and which are employed in coarse painting.

To the mineral substances, the exportation of which is still permitted, we must add marine salt, which, under the domination of the princes of EUROPE, was the source of considerable revenues. The great lake, or salt-marsh, in which it is formed, near the hamlet of the Salterns, was, in former times, three leagues in circumference; but the exportation of salt having successively diminished, the lake has

has been partly drained and cultivated; so that the sea and rain-waters are scarcely any longer collected there but on a space of a league in circuit. The heat of a burning sun accelerates the evaporation of these waters, and leaves exposed a thick crust of salt, which is gathered in the month of September, that is, before the rainy season, and is then heaped up in pyramids. These heaps of salt, in the end, acquire consistence and harden in the air; they even resist the winter rains, and, in the spring, are loaded on board small vessels, which convey them to the neighbouring coasts. The government farms out these natural salterns for a year only; and, agreeably to the plan of discouragement which it has marked out for itself, it clogs with a thousand shackles the extraction and the sale. Accordingly there exists no proportion between what the salterns produced formerly and what they yield at the present day: a few of the country barks suffice for the conveyance of the quantity which enters into the export-trade; whereas the Venetians annually formed of it the cargo of seventy large ships. If the choked-up canals, which form the communication between the lake and the sea, were re-established, the water would cover

the same extent of ground that it occupied before, and the lake of the salterns would again become one of the most important branches of the trade and revenues of the island.

What the bowels of the earth contain in riches, is not more than what its surface may yield. The presents of agriculture are not here less numerous nor less brilliant than the less valuable treasures of mineralogy; but both are equally a prey to the brutal combinations of ignorance and barbarism. The produce of a languishing culture affords the remembrance and the measure of the fertility of which a soil favoured by nature is susceptible, when the heavy and burning hand of Tyranny does not succeed in drying it up.

Olive-trees are much less common here than in past times. Their fruits no longer furnish sufficient oil for the supply of the inhabitants, and what remains of them seems to exist only to attest that olive-oil formed in CYPRUS a very considerable branch of commerce. Immense reservoirs, in the form of cisterns, and coated with an impenetrable cement, still subsist in the environs of LARNICA. Oil was preserved in these, and, to fill them, a prodigious quantity was required. The soil is so

5

favourable

favourable to olive-trees, that some are seen here of such a size that two men, with outstretched arms, would find it difficult to span their circumference. These fine trees, which, in some places, are planted with order and symmetry, are a proof of the antiquity of a culture which cannot be too much encouraged in climates that are suitable to it, as well on account of the great consumption which domestic economy and the arts make of olive-oil, as of the losses which the severe winters of these latter years have occasioned in our plantations.

Mulberry-trees still form small woods in certain quarters of the island; but their culture is abandoned in several, although it is the most easy of all, since it requires only to conduct water to the foot of each tree, in order to cool it during the burning heats of the summer. Here the bad custom obtains of lopping off the branches of these trees for the purpose of giving their leaves to the silk-worm, the rearing of which is attended with fewer inconveniences than elsewhere, under a sky which, in the season of gathering them, experiences no variations. The silk-trade, although less flourishing than it was before the invasion of the Turks, is, nevertheless, still

of some importance. It is at FAMAGUSTA that the market of this commodity is held, and there, are annually sold about twenty thousand bales, of three hundred pounds each. In this quantity is white silk, gold yellow, sulphur yellow, and lastly orange-coloured. The floss is likewise thrown into trade, and, like the silk itself, it is dispatched to the ports of TURKEY and EUROPE.

A tree less valuable, but which notwithstanding is of good produce, covers with its shade several districts, and bears fruits which furnish a particular trade: this is the carob or ST. JOHN'S bread tree, common also in other countries whose temperature is mild, such as SPAIN, the south of FRANCE, ITALY, and particularly the kingdom of NAPLES. In the ports of CYPRUS, vessels load the long, thick pods which this tree produces, and carry them to SYRIA and ALEXANDRIA. In the latter port, I have seen several vessels arrive, whose cargo consisted solely of this species of fruit; whence an idea may be formed of the quantity consumed of it by the inhabitants of EGYPT. They eat the succulent pulp which the pods contain, with hard and flat seeds; with them, it likewise supplies the place of sugar and honey, and they

they employ it in preserving other fruits. This pulp has the taste of that of cassia, and the honied, but insipid and slightly nauseous flavour of manna. The environs of LIMASSOL are planted with a great quantity of carob-trees, and it is more particularly in this harbour that the cargoes of their pods are shipped.

This fruit, known under the name of ST. JOHN'S bread, and which the Greeks call *keraka*, bad as it is, is not, on that account, less an article of food for the people of EGYPT and BARBARY, where the tree itself is not unknown. The Arabs call it *karoub* or *karnoub*. In EUROPE, in places where it is at a low price, the poor likewise live on it. It is also given as food to mules and cattle, which the use of it fattens. Lastly, the wood of the carob-tree being very hard, and consequently proper to be used in different works, we cannot but regret that this serviceable tree, by not thriving in our more northern regions, should not there add to the resources of the arts and of rural economy.

In the time of the ancient Romans, the carob-tree was already very plentiful in ITALY. The fruit, which was called *siliqua*, served as a weight; it required six pods to make a
 E 3 scruple;

scruple; and as the pound was composed of two hundred and eighty-eight scruples, it also required one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight pods to make its weight*. It may easily be conceived that this manner of weighing, which could serve only for coarse articles of little value, was not likely to be very exact.

Most of the plains, of which cotton constituted the richness, still preserve some traces of that culture; but it is there no more than a feeble image of what it was formerly. The whole island now affords to commerce but about three thousand bales of cotton; whereas, under the government of the Venetians, the annual quantity of these bales amounted to thirty thousand†. CYPRUS cotton is the most esteemed, as the finest of all the LEVANT; it is sold too at a higher price. It is not so fine in the most southern islands of the ARCHIPELAGO; that of SMYRNA is still inferior.

* See in the *Mémoires de l'Académie des Belles-Lettres*, vol. xxviii. page 653, year 1757, the dissertation of M. DUPUIS, on the state of the Roman coin, &c. This profound scholar demonstrates that SCALIGER is mistaken in taking the *siliqua* of the Romans for the fruit of the cornil-tree.

† The bale of cotton commonly weighs three hundred weight.

In short, the cotton produced in the environs of SALONICA is yet worse than that of SMYRNA; so that the more we advance towards the north, the more this article, so valuable in manufactures, loses in quality.

It would therefore be a useless attempt, and prejudicial even to the interests of the cultivator, to endeavour to introduce into the south of FRANCE the culture of the cotton-plant, as has been proposed by some persons, seduced by little trials which attest rather the taste and curiosity of the *amateur*, than the speculations of the husbandman*. And should we ever succeed in cultivating on a large

* A few plants of fine cotton-trees, on which the delicate attentions of luxurious culture have been lavished, and which have yielded choice cotton, are far from furnishing a sufficient proof of such a success, when we are speaking of large plantations, which, to be profitable, ought to require only the simple proceedings of common culture. I am acquainted with a learned and estimable cultivator of the department of *Landes*, who has succeeded in raising, even in the open ground, some cotton-trees, from which he has obtained tolerably fine cotton: I myself have had some under layers and under glasses, in one of our northern departments, that of *La Meurthe*; but from these trials, gratifying to curiosity, it, doubtless, will not be concluded that cotton is to thrive at *Landes*, and still less on the banks of *La Meurthe*.

scale, and with any success, the cotton-plant in these same countries of FRANCE, precarious crops of bad quality could not indemnify us for the expenses of raising it, nor exempt us from going up the LEVANT to look for cottons more abundant and of a superior quality, that is, whiter, finer, and more silky.

The cotton-tree cultivated in the EAST is that which is called the *annual* cotton-tree, or cotton-plant†, in order to distinguish it from that of the colonial plantations in the WEST INDIES, which is the *cotton-tree*‡. On a field, well prepared and turned up, are marked furrows, in which are planted, at certain distances, a few seeds of the cotton-tree, much the same as is practised with respect to maize. It is in the month of April that these sowings are made in CYPRUS; as soon as the plants are above ground, those which are too weak are pulled up, and the strongest only are left. They are weeded, and the earth about them is loosened in the course of the summer; their pods ripen towards the month of October, and the silky down which they

† *Gossypium herbaceum*. LINN.

‡ *Gossypium arboreum*. LINN.

afford is then separated from the seeds that it surrounds.

The humidity of the atmosphere, rains of long duration, or too frequent, are equally unfavourable to the cotton-tree. A strong heat is very suitable to it; this promotes the dazzling whiteness of the down, and contributes to the fineness and substance of the silk. The impetuous north winds are a scourge to this plantation, particularly at the period of flowering; the fruits miscarry, and the crop, almost totally lost, disappoints the hope of the cultivator as well as that of the trader.

At the time when the Venetians possessed the Island of CYPRUS, they had made there large plantations of sugar-canes, which succeeded as well as in EGYPT, in the best districts of the island, like that of PISCOPIA, on the road from LIMASSOL to BAFFA, where the best cotton in the country also grows, and near LASCA, in the gulf of PANTAIA. Proper buildings were erected on the same spots for refining the sugar, and it may be conceived what advantages would have been derived from these plantations, and these sugar-refineries, in a situation so near EUROPE.

But

But a stern barbarian, with fire and sword in hand, advanced as an exterminator of all property, and proud of annihilating every trace of ameliorations, which were in his eyes the work of infidels, he caused to be burnt with the sugar-houses, those rich plantations, and thus devoted to sterility vast plains, destined to give fresh activity to industry and national prosperity. Such a rage has produced all the effect that the demon of destruction might expect. Since that disastrous epoch, the inhabitants, persecuted on every side, have taken care not to resume a kind of culture which would have been for them only a pretext for fresh exactions on the part of their oppressors, and they have not ventured to cause the sugar-canes to revive from their ashes. But we are, nevertheless, certain that they were cultivated with success in CYPRUS; and when the island shall pass into hands more worthy of possessing it, those valuable seeds will cover again plains whose richness they have already constituted.

It would not even be impossible, nor perhaps very difficult, although it has not yet been attempted, to increase the agricultural riches of the plains of CYPRUS, by making,
near

near the fields of sugar-canes, another kind of plantation, which, most commonly, accompanies them, as their produce is mixed in the use that we make of it, I mean the culture of the coffee-tree. The soil of the island affords, in several points, places favourable to the vegetation of this shrub; the heat of these spots is no less strong than in the country, not far distant, where the fruit of the coffee-tree acquires more perfume; and I am persuaded that essays of this nature, directed with intelligence, would be crowned with complete success. They have, it is said, already been attempted in vain in a more southern country, and which has more analogy to that of YEMEN. But MAILLET, who assures us that the coffee-tree could not thrive in EGYPT*, gives no detail respecting the soil which was chosen for these experiments, its exposure, nor the accessories of its situation; and, notwithstanding this testimony, I am persuaded, as I have already expressed in my TRAVELS IN EGYPT†, that trials, better combined, would insure to that country the culture of the coffee-tree. And circumstances

* *Description de l'Egypte*, 4to. part ii. page 13.

† Vol. ii. page 263.

lead me to presume that it would succeed equally well in the Island of CYPRUS.

Here every thing attests the goodness of the soil. The gardens are full of pot-herbs of a very good quality; cauliflowers, in particular, are excellent; and the quantity of vegetables is sufficiently great for ships to lay in a stock, and even carry some to countries less fertile. These same gardens are brilliant from the lustre of various sorts of flowers; and aromatic plants there diffuse afar their strong and sweet odour. Orange-trees, lemon-trees, pomegranate and other fruit trees, still form groves round the habitations; the greater part never lose their vernal garb; the greater part too are covered with odoriferous flowers, and with these the henné blends the perfume of its clusters. Under balmy and silent bowers, in which waters, brought by subterraneous conduits, maintain verdure and coolness, we should love to recall to mind that the goddess of the island consecrated them to her sweetest mysteries, could the enjoyments of the heart exist in places surrounded by the vestiges of destruction, and which give birth to afflicting recollections.

In all the spots which stupid tyranny has not condemned to barren nakedness, various species

species of corn yield abundant harvests; but the spaces that they occupy are very circumscribed, if we compare them to the plains which they have covered, and which now present only the livery of neglect and wretchedness. Wheat and barley were one of the principal articles of exportation; at this day they scarcely suffice for the subsistence of the population of the island, even when they escape another scourge, formidable from the quantity, really prodigious, rather than from the strength of its elements. Thousands of myriads of grasshoppers come sometimes in thick clouds, and dart on the fields, ready to yield to the cultivator the exchange of his labours and toils. Fire is less quick: in a few moments the stalks of the plants are laid down and cut in pieces, the ears devoured, the crops destroyed, and the fields desolated.

These ravages are not confined to the harvests; the grasshoppers also strip the mulberry-tree of its leaves, and thus they consign to death the valuable insect which feeds on them: other useful plants become their prey. On their approach all verdure disappears, and they even gnaw the very bark of the trees.

It

It is to this fatal combination of the oppression of the government, and of the accidental, but unfortunately too often repeated marks of the anger of Nature, that we must attribute the state of languor, and the almost total decay of the agriculture of CYPRUS.

Endeavours have been made to explain how insects, winged indeed, but little capable of a flight of long duration, could appear all at once, like a devastating storm, on lands furrounded by the sea. Naturalists have imagined that grasshoppers, incapable of crossing a large space of sea, repaired to CYPRUS with the vessels from SYRIA, in which they kept themselves concealed during the voyage*; but it would be difficult, on this hypothesis, to explain the sudden appearance of these living clouds in certain years, while in others none of them are to be seen. On the other hand, must not navigators perceive this prodigious multitude of strangers; and could it be supposed that they would consent to carry them obligingly into countries where scarcity and desolation would

* HASSELQUITZ, *Voyage dans le Levant*, published by C. Linnæus, and translated from the German, by M***, part ii, page 176. Letter to M. Linnæus, dated from Smyrna, 29th August, 1751.

land with them? Besides, there is a certain fact, which removes the idea of grasshoppers getting on shipboard; this is, that the sea-shores, on the coast of CYPRUS, are sometimes covered, and infected to a great distance, with their dead bodies floating on the surface of the waters, and these vast wrecks imply a passage more perilous than a voyage on board ship. It cannot therefore be doubted that these swarms of grasshoppers arrive from the continent, where, according to the opinion of M. HASSELQUITZ, they must be formed in the midst of the deserts of ARABIA, whence they depart, supported and impelled by the winds.

The most eastern point of the Island of CYPRUS, Cape SANT ANDREA, being scarcely distant from the coast of SYRIA more than from twenty to twenty-five leagues, a gale of wind may easily carry thither light insects, which assist themselves with their wings, and possess much strength and agility. It is positively known that roving grasshoppers have crossed seas wider than this strait. M. NIEBUHR mentions, that in the month of November, 1762, a prodigious quantity of grasshoppers fell in the environs of DSJIDDA, a town of ARABIA, on the borders of the

RED SEA, after having crossed that sea, which, in this place, is upwards of fifty leagues in width; a great many perished, indeed, in the passage; which did not prevent the rest from spreading themselves over the fields in inconceivable numbers*. I have myself seen grasshoppers alight on a vessel, in a voyage along the west coast of AFRICA, abreast of Cape BLANCO, and out of sight of all land. We could not imagine that these insects had come on board with us; they arrived from the east, and were of a species unknown in FRANCE; every part of them was of a pale yellow, or filemot colour. They who do not content themselves with studying Nature in books or in collections, and who visit with some attention the immense galleries which she has herself arranged with admirable order, for the purpose of making them an eternal subject of contemplation, they, I say, may have remarked that the large green-grasshopper of our meadows raises itself with rapidity to a height somewhat considerable, and supports itself for some time in the air, when the weather is warm, the sky

* *Description de l'Arabie*, French edition 4to, vol. i. page 148 and following.

serene, and the atmosphere free from humidity; from this we may judge, that the wandering species, probably more vigorous, as well as more accustomed to travelling, may, in warm and dry climates, undertake long passages in close columns, and, favoured by the winds, venture to cross gulfs and straits.

And the frightful havock of these numberless phalanxes of devouring insects is not always confined to the fertile plains of the EAST; they are seen, more rarely it is true, but with the same fury, to strip the fields of more western countries of their harvests, of their verdure, to change in an instant the rich and smiling carpet of fecundity into a hideous scene of nakedness and devastation; and, after having deprived the earth of her dress, men of the fruit of their labours and of their means of subsistence, to finish by infecting the air with their carcases heaped up, and by spreading contagion and death. Who knows whether this be not one of the principal causes of the melancholy and cruel permanence of the plague in the EAST?

FRANCE herself has not been exempt from the misfortunes produced by these prodigious and formidable bodies, carrying in their train consternation and want. In the year 1784,

a vast swarm of these insects, coming from the east, crossed FRANCE, devoured every thing on their passage, and fell into the British channel. MEZERAU mentions with great detail another irruption of grasshoppers, which deprived the south of FRANCE of its harvests, of its vegetables, and of its trefoil. That historian informs us, that the grasshoppers which escaped from the birds, deposited such a quantity of eggs on the ground, particularly in the sandy spots, that it was thought necessary to cause them to be picked up in order to destroy them. They were found in heaps, and in this manner were collected upwards of three thousand quintals, which were burnt or thrown into the RHONE. On calculating the number of insects that were to be hatched by these masses of eggs, it was found, by a very low estimate, that there was one million seven hundred and fifty thousand to the quintal, which might give, for the total, five hundred and fifty thousand millions of grasshopper's eggs, that would have been hatched the following year. On other occasions a reward was set on grasshoppers; in 1767, two *sous* a pound were paid for them in some parts of LANGUEDOC; in 1787, only one *sou* was given; and yet it was known, by the examination of the
accounts

accounts of the little community of SAINT GILLES, that eleven or twelve hundred quintals of them had been destroyed on its territory alone*.

In the Island of CYPRUS they also gather madder, which in the LEVANT is called *alizary*, and with which cottons are there dyed red; coloquintida, with which several fields are covered almost without culture; opium, which is cultivated at the foot of Mount OLYMPUS, and is purified and packed up at NICOSIA, and a few other articles of less importance. The sandy soil of Cape CROMACHITI is covered with foda, which is burnt in summer in order to send the ashes to Europe, where it is employed in soap-manufactories. The forests afford very fine wood for building and planks; thence are likewise drawn tar and pitch, and the turpentine of CYPRUS is more esteemed than that of any other country.

Flocks that might be more numerous, afford to commerce a tolerably large quantity of wool which passed into ITALY and FRANCE.

* See the *Notice des Insectes de la France réputés venimeux*; par M. AMOUREUX fils, médecin de Montpellier, 1789, introduction, page 122 and following.

An important observation on the subject of the conveyance of wool, is not to ship that which may have contracted any humidity, because it then becomes heated, catches fire, and sets the vessel in flames. The same precaution is indispensable for the loading of madder; this root, in order to avoid the same danger, ought not to be packed up but dry and perfectly exempt from all moisture.

One of the productions which the Cypriots rear with the greatest attention, and which has not ceased to be to them an advantageous branch of trade, although like every other it has felt the violence and want of reflection of the government, is the famous wine which is yielded them by vines with twisting and creeping stems, and large and delicious fruit. The best vines, a natural temple, dear to BACCHUS, whence flows this yellowish, rich, and perfumed wine, which constitutes the delight and luxury of our tables, occupy a district called the *Commandery*, because it made a part of the great commandery of the Templars and of the Knights of MALTA. It is comprised between Mount OLYMPUS and the towns of LIMASSOL and PAPHOS. Although all the wines of CYPRUS come not from this district, they do not the less, on that account, bear,

in trade, the name of wines of the commandery, in order to enhance their value. Under that name is found some very common, and at a very low price. I have purchased at ALEXANDRIA some of this pretended wine of the commandery, at ten parats, or a little more than twelve *sous* the *dame-jeanne**; it was new, very light, and had no resemblance in point of flavour to the distinguished CYPRUS wine. From all parts of the island the wines are collected at LARNICA, where they are kept till they are shipped; but they want age in order to acquire the excellent qualities which cause them to be so much in request. The Greeks of CYPRUS, from a very ancient custom, when they have a child born, bury large vessels filled with wine, and closely stopped; these are not taken out of the ground but for the marriage of that same child. This wine, which might be called family-wine, since it serves to celebrate its most happy events, preserved secure from the impressions of the air, becomes exquisite on being taken out of the earth, and a real treasure to a delicate palate. Among persons in easy circumstances, the

* A glass-vessel containing about three gallons English measure.

quantity of wine buried is seldom consumed in marriage-festivals, and a part is sold to Europeans, who have not always the opportunity of procuring any so good.

CYPRUS wine is conveyed to EUROPE, either in casks, or in those large glass bottles, covered with rush or wicker, which are called *dames-jeannes*. This latter method would be preferable, the wine keeping better in glass vessels, if, on the other hand, the loss of it were not to be feared, from the danger of breaking the *dames-jeannes* in the course of a rather long voyage. When CYPRUS wine is shipped in casks, and the price is not considered in order to have that of the best quality, the purchaser procures casks in which has been left a certain quantity of lees, which have the property of improving the wine; accordingly the casks, thus provided with lees, sell four times dearer than those which are destitute of them.

A modern author, who has written his travels to the LEVANT, struck with the excellence of the CYPRUS wines, is astonished that the merchants of EUROPE have not tried to convey thither plants of these celebrated vines. He takes the trouble of describing minutely the precautions necessary to be observed for
removing

removing these plants, in such a manner that they might again strike in the new ground appropriated to them*. It certainly is not in this that the difficulty consists; living plants are brought to EUROPE from distances much more considerable. It is even well known that FRANCIS I. had procured from CYPRUS a sufficient quantity of vine plants for covering fifty *arpens* or French acres at FONTAINEBLEAU. We are ignorant what is become of these vines, planted at so great an expense; and we should be greatly mistaken to attribute to them the good quality and the reputation which the superior white grapes of FONTAINEBLEAU owe only to the manner of their being planted and cultivated, and to the care bestowed on them. But the real difficulty, and it is insurmountable, is to meet with the same soil, the same exposure, the same climate, the same degrees of temperature, in a word, to make CYPRUS wine elsewhere than in CYPRUS.

The arts there languish more than agriculture; those cultivated are but few, and, with

* *Voyages dans l'île de Chypre, la Syrie, et la Palestine, par M. l'Abbé MARITI, translated from the Italian, vol. i. page 225.*

the exception of the preparation of the leather called **TURKEY** leather or **Morocco**, there are scarcely any that deserve attention. This leather is prepared at **NICOSIA** and in the neighbouring villages; the workmen pretend to be in possession of a particular process, of which they make a secret; what is certain, is, that the leather which has passed through their hands is more lively and more brilliant in colour, and is, in general, better dressed than in the other parts of **TURKEY**, where, nevertheless, it is very handsome.

It is not only on leather that the workmen of **NICOSIA** and of the environs know how to apply dyes equally brilliant and durable; they also manufacture there printed calicoes, the colours of which become brighter by wear and bleaching. Other cloths, half silk, half cotton, are likewise manufactured in the same places; they are fine, but till agriculture and industry have resumed some activity, it will be difficult to introduce those articles into trade, on account of their price, which the too small quantity of the raw materials renders too high.

In return for these productions of nature and art, the Cypriots receive woollen cloths, fattins, light stuffs, laces, some of our metals,

INDIA

INDIA spices, commodities of our colonies, &c. &c. These articles of the import-trade are not so numerous as they would be, if the worst of governments had not singularly weakened the population and resources of one of the finest countries of the East.

CHAPTER IV.

Climate of the Island of Cyprus. — Cause of the great drought which prevails there. — France threatened with the same ills by the destruction of her forests. — Inhabitants of the island. — Mount Olympus. — Famagusta. — Salamis. — Nicosia. — Larnica. — Citium. — The Salterns. — Limassol. — Cape de' Gatti. — Paphos. — Cerines. — Numerous changes in the government of the Island of Cyprus.

THE nature of the productions of the Island of CYPRUS would sufficiently indicate the nature of its climate, if its vicinity to SYRIA, one of the hottest countries in the world, was not sufficient to convey an idea of it. In the summer, the heat felt there is, indeed, excessive; but it is not equal in every part of the island, which, being intersected, from east to west, by a chain of mountains, affords two different regions as well as two different temperatures. To the north, the winds that blow from the high mountains of CARAMANIA,

5

checked

checked and repelled by those with which the island is crossed in its length, temper the heat of the summer, produce piercing colds during the winter, and preserve frozen snow on the most lofty spots, during the greater part of the year. This northern region is also, generally speaking, the most hilly, the most wooded, the most rural, and the least fertile.

In the plains of the south, on the contrary, the heat of the sun, reflected by the shelves of rocks, which, in a great measure, form on this side the back of the mountains, there expands at full liberty. The north winds not being able to clear the natural barrier which the middle of the island opposes to them, cool not the atmosphere; and, did there not spring up, from time to time, a light sea-breeze which moderates the heat, it would be insupportable in certain days of the summer. Rain here is also very rare in this season, and long and cruel droughts sometimes banish an agreeable verdure, destroy the plants, attract close and numberless columns of grasshoppers, and place frightful Scarcity on Aridity's hard and burning throne. The irrigation of the lands, neglected by men, as laborious perhaps as formerly, but depressed and disheartened, can no longer moisten fields parched up; while, in some districts,

tricts, stagnant and useless waters render them an unwholesome abode. Running streams are scarce, and the greater part of the rivers which flow here are only torrents formed by the winter rains and the melting of the snow on the mountains, and whose bed is dry during warm weather.

This dryness of the earth and of the atmosphere continues daily to increase, in proportion as the plantations become more scarce, as the number of the trees diminishes, and as the forests are felled. A culpable want of foresight respecting the successive decay of a happy fertility, is by no means astonishing under the destructive administration of the Turks; but that, in countries where public economy is a science cultivated and thoroughly understood, the same disorders which pollute territories subjected to barbarians, should be propagated and maintained, is that which we have some difficulty to conceive, and which excites indignation. The ancients consecrated forests to the Divinity; respect commanded that these should be spared, and it was not without religious circumspection that they carried thither the hatchet. To a protecting mythology has succeeded the excess of luxury and disorder. Woods, which our ancestors had

had chosen for temples, sacred oaks, under whose shade they had erected altars, simple as nature, have been overthrown: the sacrilegious axe has not spared the asylum of ancient piety, nor the fertile resources of succeeding ages. Naked and frowning rocks shew themselves on the brow of the mountains, which, not long since, vigorous vegetation decorated with the finest trees; the slopes affording more facility to devastation, are almost entirely stripped; the solitary trees, which, in our fields, served as natural and immutable boundaries as well as for shelter to our flocks, have likewise fallen victims of licentiousness; every where the property of our posterity has become the prey of culpable and faithless trustees; and the most interesting part of our national wealth has seemed to be governed only by the laws of cupidity and plunder: already have the rains washed down into the plains part of the earth which covered the summit of the mountains, the hills are sinking, the vallies are rising, the springs are growing dry, the bed of the rivers is filling up, the fields are becoming parched; and if a repairing government does not take wise but speedy measures, we shall have to transmit to posterity nothing but a sum of misfortunes

ever-increasing; and the soil of FRANCE would run the risk of sharing the aridity with which a detestable administration has struck that of the Island of CYPRUS.

The GREEKS who inhabit it are tall and well made; their countenance and their manners are equally noble and agreeable. But their moral character is not thought to correspond with these external good qualities. They are said to be the most cunning and most knavish of all the Greeks; we should be tempted to cease to pity them for the oppression under which they groan, if we did not know that dissimulation and this sort of obliquity of character are frequently symptoms of weakness, and the companions of slavery; and if, on the other hand, these same men did not sometimes make us forget their faults by their virtues, and, particularly, by those of hospitality, which they exercise in a most generous manner. The Cypriot is gay, and a great friend to show and pleasure; he is not the only slave that we have seen dance in his fetters.

It may well be expected that beauty ought to shine, with all its lustre, in the spot chosen by VENUS, for establishing her sweet empire, and the worship of the Graces and Pleasures. The women of CYPRUS were formerly celebrated

brated for their charms; they still preserve them; nor have they even lost the remembrance that their island was consecrated to love. These beautiful women are very choice in their attire; they are excessively fond of flowers, as the most natural and most elegant accompaniment of their attractions; they do not dissemble their wish to please, but they manifest it with an amiable frankness. Although in the enjoyment, perhaps, of less liberty than formerly, the restriction to which custom, or, to speak more correctly, the caprices of men subject them, does not amount to constraint; and at least they no longer compose the disgraceful tribute which their ancestors paid to the queens of PERSIA, of fifty among them, whose duty, in a haughty and despotic court, consisted in throwing themselves between the wheels of the cars, and in presenting their back to the queen, who made use of it as a footstool.

The most elevated, as well as the most remarkable of the mountains, the chain of which divides the Island of CYPRUS lengthwise, is Mount OLYMPUS. The Greeks of the present day call it *TROGODOS*, *TROBODOS*, or *TROBOS*. In order to distinguish it from another mountain of the same name in NATOLIA, and from another

another more famous in MACEDONIA, the ancients gave this the name of Little OLYMPUS. On its summit they had built a temple dedicated to VENUS, the entrance of which, by a regulation very strange for a spot consecrated to the goddess of Love, was prohibited to women; they were even forbidden to look at it. To this temple, an elegant and sacred recess, where were celebrated the enjoyments of nature, had succeeded retreats erected for privations. Numbers of convents were built on the same ground. There, laborious cenobites embellished the slope of the mountain with gardens, and plantations of all sorts, laid out with taste; this was the most charming abode in the island, and the rich Cypriots went thither, during the summer, to enjoy the coolness of agreeable groves, watered by limpid streams, directed with considerable art. Insensible to a happy harmony of nature and industry, the Turk has carried his ferocity and ravages into this beautiful district; the monasteries have been demolished; and cool and cheerful spots have been clothed with the rugged garb of Sterility.

The Island of CYPRUS is about seventy leagues in length from east to west; its greatest breadth from north to south is thirty leagues;

leagues; and its circumference is nearly one hundred and eighty. In coasting its south shore, the lands of the long point of Cape *SANT ANDREA*, formerly *Cape DINARETE*, is found a large gulf, formed by this cape and *Cape GRECO*, which the ancients called *THRONI*, and on which *PTOLEMY* places a town of the same name. At the bottom of this gulf is the town of *FAMAGUSTA*, a modern name, respecting the etymology of which the learned are not agreed; but they pretty generally admit that this town is built on the ruins of the ancient *ARSINOË*, which took its name from its founder, the sister of *PTOLEMY PHILADELPHUS*, king of *EGYPT*. Situated in a bottom, *FAMAGUSTA* is not perceived at a distance, on arriving thither from the sea: its harbour is safe, but by no means spacious, and it is half choked up; small vessels alone can enter it, and large ships anchor without. Some fortifications, the work of *LUSIGNAN*, of the Genoese, and of the Venetians, who have successively had possession of them, defend the harbour and the enclosure of the town, as much as they can serve for defence in their present state of degradation, the effect of the negligence of the Turks,

who know only how to destroy, but never repair.

These ramparts recall to mind a deplorable anecdote of the most atrocious violation of the law of nations and of war; it may serve to convey an idea of the character and of the civilization of a people in whose eyes heroism and courageous fidelity to our duties are crimes, and whose profound cruelty sports with promises the most solemn, and conventions the most sacred. At FAMAGUSTA, the tears of the man of feeling water the spot where MARCO ANTONIO BRAGADINO defended that town with so much valour against the army of the Turks, commanded by MUSTAPHA, general of the emperor SELIM, and he shudders with indignation at the recital of the most execrable treachery of which that brave European died a victim.

After having sustained six assaults against the united Ottoman forces, and experienced the ravages of five hundred thousand shells, the valiant BRAGADINO, commander of the Venetian army, being forced to yield to numbers, capitulated on the first of August 1571. The conditions were settled; they were honourable to the besieged, and worthy of their
long

long and brave resistance; but, at the moment when the European general went to MUSTAPHA'S tent, in order to announce to him his departure and take leave of him, the barbarian caused him to be seized and delivered up to the most cruel tortures. He was skinned alive, then empaled; and his skin, stuffed with straw, was hung to the yard-arm of a galley, as an eternal testimony of the horrible inhumanity of the Turks, and a signal of vengeance to civilized nations.

We hasten to quit a spot witness of so dreadful an act of cruelty, and we enter, with pleasure, into a plain which extends to the east, or rather to the north-east of FAMAGUSTA, situated at the extremity of this plain, towards the sea. There, was the ancient kingdom of SALAMIS, founded by TEUCER, companion to AJAX, who, on this ground, built a town which he called SALAMIS, from the name of the island where he was born*.

Some ruins announce, in an uncertain manner, the site of this ancient town, as the culture and fecundity of the plain, which is

* “ *Nil desperandum Teucro duce, et auspice Teucro,*

“ *Certus enim promisit Apollo,*

“ *Ambiguam tellure novâ Salamina futuram.*”

HOR. lib. i. od. 7.

still the best district in the island, faintly attest what these formerly were.

About twenty leagues to the north-east of FAMAGUSTA, in the middle of a vast plain and in the centre of the island, stands NICOSIA, which is its capital. This is now the residence of the governor, as it was formerly of the kings of CYPRUS. Their palaces, remarkable for the beauty of the architecture, experience the fate common to all the ancient edifices of which the Turks have made themselves masters, and which they abandon to destruction. The superb church of SANTA SOFIA, in which the Christian kings were crowned, has been degraded, in order to be converted into a mosque; and the habitation of those sovereigns, partly demolished, and rebuilt in the eastern taste, is the residence of the *moslem* or governor. The situation of this town is agreeable; streams are here abundant; and it is surrounded by fine gardens; its soil is excellent, and waits only for the hands of freemen to resume the aspect of prosperity of which it is susceptible.

If we continue to follow the south coast, we meet with another gulf, spacious indeed, yet less so than that of FAMAGUSTA. Ships there find the fine road of LARNICA, the most frequented

frequented of the island. The town whose name it bears is at some distance from the sea. There it is that the consuls and merchants of European nations fix their residence, and, within these few years, trade was still carried on there with some degree of activity. But, as if the Turk could leave no place without stamping on it the impression of his disastrous government, the environs of LARNICA no longer correspond with the still flourishing state of its commerce. With the exception of the gardens, which adjoin to the town itself, and into which industry has found means to conduct fertilizing waters, the circumjacent fields are arid; their soil is poor and dried up; a few trees, scattered and insulated, scarcely leave them the semblance of vegetation; barley alone grows there in some favoured districts, and there is, every where, a want of water. Accordingly LARNICA is not a healthful abode; one is there exposed to a suffocating heat. Yet forests of olive-trees formerly covered those plains, at this day almost barren; and, as I have already mentioned, there are still to be seen in the environs immense cisterns, intended for preserving the oil that they yielded.

Very near LARNICA was CITIUM, now CHITI, a celebrated town of antiquity. It was a colony of Phœnicians. Here was born the philosopher ZENO, and here died CYMON, general of the Athenians. It is impossible to dig the ground in the environs of LARNICA, without meeting with the remains of the ancient town; but the suspicious Turk, imagining that all the researches of science or of curiosity have no other object than the discovery of some heap of buried gold, watches them with continual attention, and makes of them a subject of extortions; so that the antiquary very seldom dares to dig for the objects of his pursuit, and the riches which the earth conceals remain buried there with the knowledge which history and the arts would thence obtain, till the time when the heavy yoke of the Turks shall cease to pollute and deface countries formerly so brilliant.

The hamlet of the SALTERNS is but half a league from LARNICA. It has obtained its name from a large lake near the sea, at this day half-choked up, and wherein is formed salt, which is still an article of trade. In the fine roadstead of the SALTERNS, the vessels

laden for the capital of the island, and the ships of war destined to protect them, come to an anchor. At this place the merchants of LARNICA have their storehouses.

LIMASSOL, formerly NEMOSIA, is now but a miserable city, full of ruins and rubbish. Its harbour is, nevertheless, not a little frequented; here vessels load with grain, cotton, and other productions of the earth. The best wines are made in its environs, and it is the emporium of all those of the island who are concerned in trade.

Not far from this town, if, however, LIMASSOL deserve that appellation, stood the ancient LIMASSOL, which, still more anciently, was called *AMATHUS*, celebrated for a temple consecrated to VENUS and ADONIS, and in which, according to PAUSANIAS, was preserved a rich necklace of precious stones, ornamented with gold, the work of VULCAN, and given in the first instance to HERMIONE*. But this ancient town is destroyed; like PAPHOS, CYTHERA, the charming IDALIUM, and other places which the Graces embellished, it is effaced from the soil of the Island of CYPRUS; and, in lieu of the sweet and smiling

* Liv. ix.—*Voyage de la Béotie*, vol. ii. page 316.

images which it presented, it now excites nothing but regret and painful recollections.

Near LIMASSOL, and to the east of it, is the most southern promontory of the island; it is a small peninsula, which is connected to the continent only by a very narrow tongue of land; it was formerly named the promontory of *AGROTIRI*; at present it is called Cape *DE' GATTI*, on account of the great number of cats kept by the monks, who, in the fourth century, obtained permission to establish themselves there, as well as on Mount *OLYMPUS*, on condition of keeping a great many of those animals for hunting snakes which had multiplied in the island to a frightful pitch, and which, it is asserted, have no greater enemies than cats.

After doubling Cape *DE' GATTI*, the coast trends to the north-west, and, at the head of a small cove, lies a very indifferent harbour, which affords but an insecure shelter; the bottom is thickly strewn with rocks, by which the cables of vessels would soon be cut, if the precaution were not taken to buoy them up, by means of empty, floating casks. Here stood *PAPHOS*, where *VENUS* landed after her birth in the midst of the waters. An ancient temple had been constructed in honour of her;

her; here doves were flying about incessantly and built their nests; no victim's blood stained her altars; such sacrifices would have disgusted the goddess of Love; in her worship there was nothing but what was mild, and the numerous offerings which were brought thither, from all quarters, did not afflict humanity. In this temple, a celebrated oracle pronounced on the destinies of men, and its high priesthood was an eminent dignity. The number of strangers that the worship of VENUS brought to PAPHOS, the concourse of the inhabitants of the island, the beauty of its situation and of its edifices, the enchanting aspect of its plains, and the freedom which there reigned, had rendered it the seat of pleasure and delight. So many charms are at this day replaced by ruins, a village, a pitiful castle, some paltry houses, a few mean Greek churches, wretchedness, and the harsh name of *BAFFA*, or *BAFFÒ*.

On the north coast of the island, there is no place particularly remarkable, if we except CERINES, the ancient *CERAUNIA*; like PAPHOS, it exhibits nothing but ruins, as a testimony of its past grandeur. A harbour, equally bad, serves only for the trade of the island with *CARAMANIA*, whose mountains

are perceived from the heights of CERINES. The communication between this harbour and the port of SELEFSKI, whose name recalls to mind that of SELEUCIA in CILICIA, is frequent; in order to render it more so, there are two packets solely destined for this short navigation, which, nevertheless, was profitable, and which was in the hands of the French.

Such, in a few words, is the geographical description of an island, which, in former times, divided into nine kingdoms, passed successively under the domination of the Egyptians, the Phœnicians, the Persians, the Macedonians, the Romans, the Europeans of the West, and the Arabs. The crusades rendered it the appendage of some princes of EUROPE, who gave it up to the Venetians. Sultan SELIM snatched it from them in 1570; and, since that epoch, it has made a part of the Ottoman empire, in order to be again severed from it, and exposed to fresh vicissitudes, inseparable from human institutions. Nothing is stable in Nature but Nature herself; and the more men deviate from her by the excess of civilization, if I may so express myself, the more are social forms subject to vary, and exposed to innovations.

CHAPTER V.

Picture of the present situation of the Island of Cyprus.—Galéode aranéoïde, an enormous spider of a very dangerous nature.—The conquest of the Island of Cyprus would have singularly favoured that of Egypt.

IT is not only in regard to the productions of the soil, that Nature is counteracted in the Island of CYPRUS, and that her bounties are disavowed and rejected. The rigours of an oppressive domination have shed their baneful influence over fields, arts, and men. Every day we see commerce fail, industry decay, lands dry up, and agriculture become impoverished. Vallies, once shaded by useful or agreeable trees, which culture enriched with harvests of every species, or adorned with verdure or flowers, now remain uncultivated, and over-run with brambles and other stubborn, meagre, and useless plants. One may travel whole days in plains deserted and abandoned to that mournful and pernicious fecundity,

fecundity, which, on lands impatient to produce, is sterility's constant companion; in factitious wastes, the gloomy and fatal effect of the power of the evil-minded, where the traveller would think himself buried in vast solitudes, did he not, here and there, perceive straggling flocks and scattered habitations. Every day too we see population, which increases and settles only where are to be found abundance of provisions, activity of trade and of manufactures, and justice on the part of the government, diminish in a perceptible manner; and men quit a desolated country, and, for the most part, seek spots less disturbed, abodes less unhappy.

The animals which constitute the wealth or the pleasures of man, are here less numerous and of a breed less handsome than formerly. The affluence of the owners imparts to domestic animals the qualities which make them valuable; on the contrary, they degenerate, when they no longer have any thing to share with their masters but a painful and uncomfortable existence. And, indeed, there are now scarcely to be seen here any of those horses of distinguished race, descendants of the coursers of ARABIA, and no less famous for their vigour than their fleetness, nor any
of

of those beautiful greyhounds renowned for their ardour and their address in the chace. Both these are no longer to be found except in a few families, which still preserve the remains of their ancient opulence. Cattle are not to be seen here in plenty, as in former times; nor do flocks of sheep with broad and trailing tails, or of goats, whose hair served for making fine camlets, now repair, in such great numbers, to the declivity of hills clothed with succulent herbs; nor do they now so much enliven solitary spots, where they feed in full tranquillity, and which Nature seems to have intended for the simple and pure charms of pastoral life.

The silk-worm, deprived of part of its food, in half-ruined plantations of mulberry-trees, now no more multiplies with so much profusion; and families of kermes, rivals of the cochineal insect, scarcely any longer furnish colouring substance to our manufactories. Game is also less common, and birds of passage come not now, in such considerable flights, to alight on lands, which afford them not the same shelter, nor the same abundance. The sea even ceases to furnish so many resources to the inhabitants of the island; not that a destructive power has been able to penetrate

netrate into the very bosom of the waters: those which bathe the coasts are still extremely full of fish; but hands and activity are wanting for the fishery, as well as for the other branches of industry and commerce.

If every thing that is good and useful has suffered and decayed in CYPRUS, every thing that is of no value or mischievous has there prospered. Snakes, which delight in thickets or under rubbish, there propagate at their ease, and it will soon be necessary again to have recourse to cats in order to clear the fields of them. Hurtful and hideous insects increase and freely elaborate their venom under the damp and warm shade of the ruins; tarantulae, with a black and hairy body and yellow and brilliant eyes, are not here uncommon; and here is also to be met with, though but very seldom indeed, that frightful spider, whose aspect alone terrifies, whose venom strikes with death whomsoever it reaches, whose natural history, in short, is yet little known.

The first thing to be done, when we mean to speak of an animal of which some naturalists have already made mention, is to unravel its nomenclature; and, indeed, this is a task very ungracious, very minute, and
which

which can please none but contracted and pedantic minds. Although few authors have written on the ugly and dangerous insect in question, each of them has imposed on it a different denomination, the most certain mean of their never coming to a right understanding with each other. Amid this confusion and this continual and arbitrary substitution of names*, I shall fix on that of *galéode*, which OLIVIER, a celebrated naturalist and traveller, has given to this species of spider, in order to distinguish it from the other species, from which it is, in fact, very different†; this is a deference due to an estimable man of learning, and at the same time a service to the science of Nature, which, if we chose to believe some people, more attached to words

* M. PALLAS has called this spider, *Phalangium aranéoides* (*Spicil. Zool. fascicul. 9*, page 37, tab. iii, fig. 7, 8, and 9). M. FABRICIUS, from LICHTENSTEIN, another foreign naturalist, has given it the name of *solpuga aranéoides*. (*Supplément Entomol.* page 294). This same denomination of *solpuga* has been adopted, with the epithet *arachnodes*, by M. HERBST, known principally by a good work on crustaceous animals, in a very extensive Memoir, which he has recently published at Berlin on this subject, (page 37, tab. i, fig. 2).

† *Galéode aranéode*, (*Encyclop. Méthod. Hist. Nat. des Insectes*).

than to things, would soon be nothing more than the barren knowledge of arbitrary names, and phrases equally dry and insignificant.

The notions that the ancients have transmitted to us respecting the various animals with which they were acquainted, and particularly insects, are, generally speaking, too vague and too incomplete for us to be enabled to assign with certainty to what animal each of them belongs. It appears to me a rather bold conjecture, to decide with M. HERBST*, that the frightful spider or the *galéode* of the LEVANT (See *Plate III.*) is the insect which the Greek and Latin authors have named *sphalangium*, *phalangium*, *solifuga*, *solpuga*, *tetragnathium*, and *mus araneus*. Indeed, those authors have given to several species of spiders† the name of *sphalangium* or *phalangium*, which modern naturalists have reserved for the spiders alone with long legs, with the head confounded with the corselet, and of which a very common species is the *faucheur* of our countries. Neither does the *solfuga* or *solpuga* appear to me to be the *galéode*; the literal signification of this name

* Memoir before quoted.

† CÆTIUS and others have applied the name of *phalangia* to six species of spiders.

is *sun-shunner*, and it has been equally applied to a species of ant and to a species of spider; but the *solfuga* spider is an insect extremely small (*animal perexiguum*), which is frequently found in SARDINIA, in the silver-mines, which creeps into the dark, and whose bite is venomous*: now, the *galéode* is not a very small insect, it avoids not the broad day, and is not found, or at least no one has said that it was found, in the Island of SARDINIA. It is scarcely more possible to recognize it in the account which PLINY has left us of the *tetragnathium* or spider with four jaws, and which that naturalist divides into two species; the one, and this is the most dangerous, having on the middle of the head two white lines; and the other, whose movement is slower, having the body cinereous and whitish at its extremity†. As for the *mus araneus*, or the spider-rat of the ancient naturalists, it is described in their writings, as a quadruped, in such a manner as not to be mistaken: this is the spider-rat, an animal well known, and which the ancients may have easily observed; whereas it is not certain

* SOLINUS, according to PLINY, *Polyhist. cap. ix.*

† PLIN. *Hist. Nat. lib. xxix. cap. iv.*

that they have had a knowledge of the *galéode*; an insect fortunately very seldom found in the warmest regions of EUROPE and ASIA.

I have taken the liberty of making these critical remarks only to shew, that, according to every appearance, the *galéode* was unknown to the ancients; and to give a fresh proof of the difficulty of adapting, with precision, the greater part of the notes scattered in their works, to the animals whose history we are now writing. However it may be with respect to these probabilities, in inquiring into which we lose much time, while we run the risk of being bewildered, faithful to the plan which I have marked out for myself, to collect observations and facts, before I reason on the origin of denominations, and lose myself in vague conjectures, I shall give, in a few words, the description of the *galéode aranéoïde*, or scorpion-spider, which I had an opportunity of observing in the LEVANT, and report what is known respecting this mischievous insect.

Some very prominent characters approximate it to the *phalangium*; its head is, in like manner, confounded with the corselet, and the piece of which they are composed is nearly in the form of a truncated cone, whose base is placed in front, and serves as an anterior border:

der: in the middle of this border is a blackish tubercle with two eyes, which appeared to me to be facetwise; between them, and in front, are remarked two other little tubercles, which might also be taken for eyes; however, I do not imagine that they are really so, but I consider them rather as peduncles of eye-lashes or thick hairs, some of which, seen through the magnifier, appeared truncated and tubular.

To this piece, which supplies the place of head and corselet, are attached the organs of nutrition, and two pairs of arms or antennulæ. Two enormous jaws, which the modern French entomologists call *mandibules*, at first strike the eye; they are larger than the piece itself, or the head, in front of which they are fixed; their form is conical; they adhere to each other by their inner side; they are hairy, entire, and not bent like those of the *faucheur*; each of these jaws is terminated by two brown nippers, scaly, notched underneath, ending in a point, bowed in a contrary direction, and crossing each other at their extremity. I examined them both with a lens of great power, and I discovered no opening that could serve as a drain for a poisonous liquor, as is perceived in the claws of spiders. It is nevertheless very certain that this insect is vene-

mous to an excess, which leads us to presume that the holes through which its venom is emitted, are extremely small, and at the same time that the poison which exudes from them, is of an extremely active nature, since the very minute portion which can flow from an imperceptible opening, is sufficient to occasion death.

At the origin of the nippers, and underneath them, issues a small scaly, cylindrical net, terminated in a point, thrown back, and laid on the top of the support of the nippers or on the mandible; I am speaking only of the individual which I more particularly observed; for I presume that this appendage is no more than one of the distinctive characters of the sex; underneath these same mandibles, and in the interval that separates them, is perceived a small body, which FABRICIUS calls a *lip in the form of a sucker*. This body appeared to me composed of a little shank, having at its extremity two cylindrical, hairy pieces, close to each other.

The two pairs of arms or antennulæ are inserted in the lower part of this piece, which I have said replaces, in the *phalangia* in general, and in the *galéode* in particular, the head and the corselet; these arms are composed

posed of a series of joints, almost all cylindrical, beset with long hairs, some even with teeth, and fashioned much in the same manner, except that the anterior arms are larger, and have, besides, at their extremity, a sort of knob, or short and round joint, which, according to OLIVIER, should indicate a male.

Before I pass to the belly or the abdomen of the insect, I must observe that there exists between it and the corselet an intermediate piece, serving as a fastening to four pairs of feet, which differ essentially from the arms, by their having, in addition, a tarsus formed by two or three joints, and at the extremity of which are two toes, bent, long, and each provided with a small brown, scaly hook. The feet, reckoning from those which are the nearest to the arms, successively increase in size; so that the last are very long. These have, in other respects, a particularity very remarkable; on the lower side of the part which, by comparison with other animals, might be called the hip, are discovered four singular appendages: these are membranous bodies, very thin, and transparent, formed by a small pedicle, which is surmounted by a piece almost triangular, bent, and concave. A better comparison cannot be made of these

appendages than to the half of a funnel, which has been cut in its height; they approximate the *galéodes* to the scorpions, which have, as is well known, two bodies in the form of a comb, placed near the hind feet.

The abdomen is fixed to the piece which answers to the corselet, not by a short pedicle, as in spiders, but by its greatest transversal diameter; it also differs from the abdomen of spiders, from its having incisions or rings, whereas the coat of that of spiders is whole and continuous.

The *galéode*, whose length is about an inch, has a body of a livid yellow, and beset with long hairs, and even with prickly ones in several places. It runs with prodigious swiftness, and thus more easily escapes its destruction, in which mankind are interested, its bite being very dangerous, as I have already mentioned, and its venom very subtle. The parts which are attacked by it swell in an instant, and occasion excessive pain, followed by certain death, if proper remedies be not speedily employed. Those which are most effectual, are oil, as a topical application, together with cordials and sudorifics, taken internally.

The *galéode aranéoïde*, or scorpion-spider, is met with in several parts of the LEVANT, in
ARABIA,

ARABIA, in SYRIA, in PERSIA, in ASIA MINOR, and even in the country comprised between the DON and the VOLGA, in the environs of the CASPIAN SEA, and whose temperature is much warmer than might be expected, in such northerly regions. These filthy insects are there becoming more and more common; M. PALLAS saw two of them in a house which he occupied at ZARIZYN, and he was informed that several had been killed in the habitation of the commandant of that fortress, during the stay that he made there. However, there was only one person who was bitten by it, but he was saved by the timely assistance given him, and he experienced no other bad consequences than a large swelling and some sharp pains*. The Arabs, who are acquainted with no remedy for the bite of this insect, dread it extremely.

It is undoubtedly almost needless to mention that an animal, or rather a four-footed monster, of the size of a horse, and, in other respects, similar to a snake, the *laminga*, which DAPPER, according to another author equally

* Travels of M. P. S PALLAS in different provinces of the empire of RUSSIA, and in northern ASIA, translated by GAUTHIER DE LA PEYRONÉ'E, 5 vol. 4to. page 313.

credulous, affirms to exist on Mount OLYMPUS, and to devour men, is only an imaginary being, engendered by imposture and credulity. The Island of CYPRUS is afflicted with a sufficient number of real ills, without our endeavouring to increase them by imaginary scourges.

But the greater part, as well as the most considerable, of these ills, are vices and disorders of the administration: should the Island of CYPRUS cease to be a prey to the violence and gross incapacity of the government which tears it to pieces; should repairing hands come thither to second the efforts of Nature, who has done so much for this interesting island, the splendour with which it formerly shone, and its ancient prosperity, would revive, and it would still be again found one of the richest and most agreeable countries in the world.

And had circumstances allowed, had it been possible to obtain the consent of the PORTE, or could it have been foreseen that respect for that restless, suspicious power, led away by the insinuations of the enemies of FRANCE, could have served only to excite its resentment, the conquest of the Island of CYPRUS ought, perhaps, to have preceded that of EGYPT. The French would there have found abun-

dant means of subsistence, and in the Greeks, by whom it is inhabited, zealous partisans, friends who would have welcomed and assisted them, instead of barbarians whom it was necessary to fight and slaughter; no obstacle would have opposed the landing of the army; the fortified places which are there to be found are dismantled, and so destitute of troops and military stores, that they could not have made any resistance. Numerous harbours, which it would have been easy to put into a respectable state of defence, would have preserved the fleet secure from all attack; ships, cruising in the sea of SYRIA, would have blocked up all its ports; and when the moment should have been thought favourable, these same ships would, in a very little time, have conveyed to the coast of EGYPT, an army already accustomed to the heat of the climate, and reinforced by Cypriots*. The debarkation being effected, the fleet would have abandoned the dangerous shores of ALEXANDRIA, and regained the roads of CYPRUS. An easy, quick, and continual communication, which

* The Island of *Cyprus* is scarcely seventy leagues from *Alexandria*, and the current carries vessels thither very rapidly.

it would scarcely have been possible for the enemy to intercept, would have been established between the two colonies; the island would have furnished the continent with provisions, other supplies, and particularly wood, in which EGYPT is deficient: the small number of useful trees which adorn and cool the plains of this latter country, would not have been sacrificed to the wants of the army, and to military erections; the enemy would not have had the facility of establishing himself at ST. JEAN D'ACRÈ; descents would have been effected, as it were, on every point of the coast of SYRIA; the desert which separates it from EGYPT would not have cost the lives of many brave men in marches excessively laborious, across arid and burning plains which there is no drop of water to moisten; in short, to the glory of breaking the chains of two nations, oppressed and degraded by ages of slavery, we should have added the happiness of restoring to liberty, and to their former prosperity, a people who are not unworthy of those blessings, and whose gratitude would have been manifested towards their deliverers, by every sort of assistance and every act of devotion.

The resources which the possession of the Island of CYPRUS would have afforded for the conquest

conquest of EGYPT, would have extended to its preservation; they would have secured and consolidated the acquisition of a country, which, from its position, is the key and the emporium of the commerce of three parts of the world, and of which the Roman emperors, who were acquainted with its importance, were so jealous, that they strictly forbade the entrance of it to senators and generals who had not obtained their express permission for that purpose, from an apprehension that the prodigious fecundity and the delights of that beautiful and rich country might lead them to attempt usurpation.

This plan of an expedition, however brilliant, however advantageous it may appear, was not practicable, no doubt, since it was not adopted; it could not indeed escape the penetrating eye and the profound combinations of that man of genius who certainly perceived, in its execution, obstacles sufficiently powerful for rejecting it; in fact, it could not but have been pleasing to him to emancipate from the most tyrannical oppression, and to restore to its ancient state of splendour, a country to which its flourishing situation had occasioned to be given the epithet *happy*, the just application of which is so valuable and so rare;

5 and

and we must suppose that political considerations of great weight opposed this more extensive development of the views which directed the expedition to EGYPT.

However, and it is sufficiently manifest, the ideas which I have just traced, the result of my observations on the very places, and of my meditations, can have no merit but in the eyes of philosophy; and it is well known that philosophy is frequently at variance with political arrangements. Little accustomed to the latter, I am scarcely acquainted with any policy but that of humanity, the study of which has been easy to me; I have found it in my heart.....But I resume the sequel of my narration.

CHAPTER VI.

Captain of the polacre. — Goat-sucker. — Coast of Caramania. — Castel-Rosso. — Birds. — Currents. — Turkish caravel. — Turkish navy. — Efforts of the Turks for improving their navy. — Want of foresight of France. — Bonito. — Danger incurred by the polacre. — Put into Rhodes. — Gulf of Macri.

ON the 19th of October, that is, the third day after our departure from ALEXANDRIA, the westerly wind, which blew directly in our teeth from the Island of CANDIA, whither we were bound, drove us out of our course, although it was not yet very violent, nor the sea very high. Our little vessel, which sailed rather ill, did not work much better; and from my conversations with the captain, I had no reason to conceive a high idea of his skill in navigation. He related to me, for instance, as a very simple event, that the preceding year he had lost, on the coast of SICILY,

CILY, the vessel, which he then commanded, because, having made a mistake in his reckoning, he thought himself far from the land, at the very moment when she was cast away on it. But his features changed, his voice faltered, and big tears, long-restrained, fell from his eyes, and trickled down the wrinkles with which age had furrowed his face, when he spoke to me of another accident, in the recollection of which he was wholly absorbed. A few years ago his only son, who sailed with him in these same seas of the LEVANT, had, in a heavy gale, been crushed to death under his eyes, between the vessel and the boat. He was inconsolable at this loss, and his head was really affected by it.

This day there was taken, on the after-part of the vessel's deck, a goatsucker, a bird which, notwithstanding its incapacity to fly far, and the weakness of its eyes, is not, on that account, the less a roving bird*.

On the 20th, we began to discover the coast of CARAMANIA; we were then tossed about by a very heavy sea, raised by an impetuous

* *Engoulevent*. BUFFON, Hist. Nat. des Oiseaux, et *crapaud-volant* des planches enluminées, No. 193, fig. 2.—*Caprimulgus Europæus*. LINN.

and still contrary wind. We continued to stand in for the land, in order to take advantage of the light breezes which blow thence during the night, for a vessel might struggle in the offing, a long time and in vain, against the westerly winds, common in these seas. However, this coast of the part of CARAMANIA, which anciently formed PAMPHYLIA, is safe, according to the seaman's phrase; I mean that it is washed by deep waters, and that ships may range very closely along it, without fear of running aground. It is, in general, elevated, arid, and much broken by numerous interfections; but behind this coast, mountains, clothed with a gloomy green, announced that they are covered with wood. There, in fact, grow vast forests, an important resource for ship-building, and which the Turks neglect or destroy, as it were, for the sake of destruction.

The most eastern cape of the Gulf of SATALIA, anciently ATTALIA, from the name of ATTALUS PHILADELPHUS, king of PERGAMUS, who had there founded a colony, lay ahead of our vessel; we soon saw the little Island of CASTEL-ROSSO, opposite the promontory which bore the name of *Sacred*, and the most advanced towards the south of this part

part of the coast, from which it is scarcely separated. A very good harbour is there open to navigators; but, within it, is a great depth of water, and vessels are obliged to anchor in sixty or eighty fathoms. On the summit of the rock, which forms this island, is a fortified castle; but nothing is to be seen there that has any reference to its present denomination; nothing red appears there; and we may presume, with the learned English traveller Pocock, that this is the island near which there was a road for shipping, and which PLINY calls *ROGE**, a denomination of which has been made, by corruption, in Italian *Rosso*, and *ROUGE* in French †.

A flock of little land-birds, whose species I could not distinguish, skimmed along the surface of the water, directing their course to the south, and, like so many other travelling families of the same class, proceeded to the warm plains of EGYPT, in order to pass there the winter. A considerable flight of crows, likewise come from the lands of CARAMANIA, followed the same direction, but flew at a greater height.

* Lib. viii. cap. xxxv.

† Pocock's Travels, book iv. chap. i.

We remarked, and this observation is well known to navigators who frequent these seas, that, along the coast of CARAMANIA, the currents set to the south-west; their impulse was favourable to us, and diminished the action of the westerly wind, which did not quit us during the day. However, it had lost much of its strength; from the morning of the 22d the sea had fallen, and the different aspects of the land, which our continual change of situation rendered very diversified, made of our voyage an agreeable excursion. Towards the sea, we also had objects which interrupted its tiresome sameness: some vessels were sailing near ours, and in the midst of them rose, like a floating mountain, a caravel belonging to the Grand Signior: thus are called the ships of war of the Turkish navy; their elevation above the water is excessive; their stern is, besides, of a disproportionate height. This structure, which gives great hold to the wind even on the hull of the vessel, occasions her to be difficult to manage, and exposes her to make considerable lee-way, as well as to all the violence of the shocks of a heavy sea: in an action, the enemy's shot find a greater surface to strike; the vessel is a heavy sailer, and not sure in

stays; added to this, the rigging is incomplete and confounded; the artillery, entirely of brass, is composed of pieces of different calibres, which makes it tedious and difficult to serve them, and the gun-decks, being always lumbered, likewise clog a service, which the difference of the weight of metal necessarily renders confused. From such great defects in the construction and rigging of the Turkish men of war, and even the nature of the wood with which they are built, it is easy to remark the infancy or rather the barbarism of navigation.

And the men who conduct these shapeless masses, are also the most ignorant in the world. There are few among them who are familiarly acquainted with the use of the compass, who know how to find and mark their route on a chart, who are capable of observing the altitude of the sun above the horizon, when it passes the meridian, in order to ascertain the latitude; nor is there one who has any idea of geography. It may be remembered that, in the course of the last war between the Russians and the Turks, it was impossible to persuade the latter that the Russian fleets could reach CONSTANTINOPLE, by another route than by the BLACK SEA. In vain was pointed out

out to them on the chart the route which brought ships from the BALTIC into the ARCHIPELAGO; the divan, in which sat the high admiral himself, persisted in considering the thing as impracticable; and it was not till the enemy's fleet arrived in the seas of TURKEY, that the possibility of this voyage began to obtain credit.

Accordingly shipwrecks, accidents of every sort, frequently happen in the very confined course of voyages so ill-directed; and if some of the mariners display more capacity or experience, these are not Turks; they are natives of BARBARY or Greeks. The latter furnish all the pilots to the Ottoman navy, and, among the modern Greeks, are discovered the descendants of those who were the masters of the Romans in the art of navigation. But, whatever may be their dispositions, and even their long and ancient practice in the carrying-trade, they can by no means be considered as skilful seamen, and they are deficient in instruction, without which it is impossible to become so.

Yet to their hands were intrusted almost all the merchant-ships belonging to the Turks; and the latter had no great confidence in them; independently of the fear with which

they were inspired by the Maltese armaments, they almost always preferred loading their goods on board European vessels; the government itself also gave a preference to foreign shipping, particularly in regard to supplying the capital with provisions, an object on which the ministry have always had their eyes, because when it happens to fail, insurrections and misfortunes spread in a tumultuous and frequently-agitated city.

However, the Turks, instructed by the ill fortune of a war disastrous to their navy, made, within these few years, some efforts for extricating it from its rude infancy; in dock-yards, under the direction of skilful French builders, drier and founder wood was employed in constructing ships on a more advantageous scale. The court of VERSAILLES made a present to that of CONSTANTINOPLE of a ship of the line and of several frigates, with the use of which, in fleets, the Turks were unacquainted; while French engineers established schools of navigation and cannon-founderies. Such policy could originate only in improvident minds; the very flourishing trade, which enriched the French in the LEVANT, had no other basis than the ignorance and pusillanimity of the Turks: by instructing them to
dispense

dispense with foreign aid, to ascend to the rank of enlightened nations, was to teach them to do without us; it was to pave the way to the ruin of our commerce, and to prepare for us a formidable enemy in a people who, till then, had nothing to oppose to us but weakness and inexperience.

The rage for setting ourselves up as instructors to foreign nations, a rage specious from an appearance of greatness and generosity, and which, in reality, is but the fruit of a false philosophy and of erroneous combinations, has frequently become fatal to us; and to go no farther than the example with which the Ottomans furnish us of this truth, can it be supposed that, at the present day, they would have ventured to declare against us a maritime war, in which they display remarkable activity, had they not been instructed, in our own school, in the art of fighting us? It is to our lessons alone that they owe the success which they have had against us, rather than to the advice and assistance of other nations, which would never have been able to derive any advantage from this, had it not been taught long ago to know its strength and to make use of it.

The presentiment of what has happened in our days had not escaped the genius of a great philosopher, who, under the agreeable and light mask of pleasantry, knew how to disguise and present truth, and the criticism of the follies of governments. The reader may recollect those lines of VOLTAIRE, in which he answers a bookseller who offers him a new work on military tactics:

“ *Allez, de Belzébuth détestable libraire,
 “ Portez votre tactique au chevalier de Tott,
 “ Qui fait marcher les Turcs au nom de Sabaoth;
 “ C’est lui qui de canons couvrant les Dardanelles,
 “ A tuer les chrétiens instruit les infidèles*.”*

But in vain does Philosophy raise her voice; she is not, in general, heard but by those whose power is limited to the practice of her precepts in obscurity, and who have no influence

* ATTEMPTED IN ENGLISH.

Vender of books, detestable as hell,
 To Chevalier de Tott thy tactics sell,
 That vile artificer of murd’rous work,
 The war’s whole art exposing to the Turk,
 That infidels may learn to guard their shore,
 And bathe their impious hands in christian gore.

Translator.

in public affairs. It is not that people do not often borrow her language, and endeavour to dress themselves in her livery; but every thing is confined to sterile declamation, and deceitful appearances; and as, in these latter times, true liberty was never more misunderstood than since it was incessantly talked of, philosophy is likewise in every mouth, and is seldom reduced to action. A dark and wavering policy supplies her place: yet history represents to us the latter as a powerful weapon in the hands of Ambition, when it is wished to sport with the fate of nations, and tear human nature to pieces*.

On the 22d, towards the evening, a multitude of fishes of the small species of tunney, which the French seamen of the MEDITERRANEAN call *palamide*† (bonito), appeared all at once near the ship; they divided with extreme rapidity the surface of the waves, which they caused to bubble, and they darted sometimes out of the water by quick and tumultuous leaps; these sudden passages of fishes, swimming in close columns, are, in the eyes of navigators, a certain presage of bad wea-

* This was written before the 18th Brumaire.

† *Scomber pelamis*.—LINN.

ther. In fact, the sky was charged with vapours, and the horizon began to be covered with clouds, which, to the north-west, were intersected by some vivid and repeated flashes of lightning. The captain, faint and trembling, told me that it was uncommon to sail in these seas, without encountering some violent storm; he added that, the year before, he had been caught in a gale of wind, which had put him in the greatest danger. In consequence, he ordered several sails to be taken in, although the weather was yet very fine, and employed some precautions which were not attended with great success.

After having exhorted my timid skipper to courage and vigilance, I went to bed and fell into a sound sleep. But on the 22d, at two o'clock in the morning, I was awakened by a great noise and by cries of "*The axes, the axes! Cut! cut away!*" I sprang on deck, and I saw that, notwithstanding his alarms and precautions, the captain had not the less suffered himself to be surprised by a very heavy squall, which, bursting all at once on the vessel, still pressed with more sail than she could carry, had overpowered her to such a degree that she was almost half under water, and on the point of being entirely buried

buried in the waves. We contrived to right her, by cutting some of the running rigging and splitting a sail; a few moments more, and we should have been swallowed up. I complimented the captain on his skill, and returned to my bed, fully promising myself not to make a long voyage, under the guidance of such seamen.

In the morning, we found ourselves near RHODES; a fresh breeze from the north-west and a heavy sea prevented us from following our route. Obligated to ply to windward with a bad vessel, we laboured a great deal without gaining any way; the same obstacles only continuing to increase, the captain, tired of making useless efforts, determined to enter the harbour of RHODES, where we anchored on the 24th, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

I observed that the coast of CARAMANIA, from CASTEL-ROSSO to the entrance of the Gulf of MACRI, is less elevated than that which is to the eastward of this island; but it is equally perpendicular, divided by large ravines, and of a rock white and arid.

The caravel, of which we had not lost sight, made sail in order to enter the Gulf of MACRI, where she found an anchorage more suitable

able than that of RHODES. This great bight is opposite to the city of RHODES, and to the east of it; the ancients called it *GLAUCUS SINUS*, from the name of the river *GLAUCUS*, which discharges its waters into it. A town of *CARIA*, of which *PLINY* has made mention*, has given it its present denomination, which the navigators of *PROVENCE* disfigure by that of *MÈGRE*, *Golfe de la MÈGRE*. At the head of this gulf are discovered some very fine remains of antiquity, in the ruins of the ancient town of *TELMISSUS*. *M. DE CHOISSEUL-GOUFFIER* has described and caused to be drawn some parts of them in his superb work on *GREECE*†. In it are to be seen the magnificent fragments of a theatre and some funeral monuments that attest the grandeur and opulence of *TELMISSUS*, which time and the Turks have converted into heaps of rubbish.

The Gulf of *MACRI* affords to shipping excellent havens, capable of containing fleets. There are some very retired, which were frequented by a few vessels concerned in the *caravane* or carrying-trade, during the three

* *Glaucumque versus amnem Lagusa, Macris, Didyma.*—*PLIN.* lib. cap. xxxi.

† *Voyage Pittoresque de la Grèce.*—Vol. i. page 116 and following.

winter months when navigation in the ARCHIPELAGO is slack, and more dangerous. There, they passed the bad season in full security; the crews were employed in refitting the vessels, and in cutting wood, with which they loaded them in order to convey it to places where it was wanted, and where they sold it. This wood cost only the trouble of felling it; the finest trees were at the disposal of the first comer; and I have been always astonished that FRANCE never thought of procuring timber for ship-building in these great insulated forests, the preservation of which no one superintended. These solitary winter-retreats were not without amusements; the abundance and variety of game and fish checquered the pleasure of shooting and fishing, and the resources of the table; on the other hand, no interruption was to be apprehended on the part of the inhabitants; and this is not a trifling advantage in a country where men are the most dangerous of all the living beings that can be met with.

CHAPTER VII.

*Vice-consul of Rhodes.—Consuls in the Levant.
 —Bad policy of the French government towards the Turks.—Island and city of Rhodes.
 —Rats.—Dock-yards.—Colossus of Rhodes.
 —Statues.—Climate and fertility of the island.—Its names.—Comparison of its former state with its present situation.*

MORE fatigued by the melancholy solitude of my little vessel than by the inconveniences which I had experienced, I hastened to quit her as soon as the anchor was dropped in the harbour of RHODES. I presented myself at the house of the French Vice-consul, the only one of the nations of EUROPE who resided in the island. He did not live in the city of RHODES, but took up his residence, without the walls of the town, in a small Greek village, which may be considered as a suburb. At M***'s, I experienced the most polite reception and civilities beyond those which routine has consecrated, and which, nevertheless,
 travellers

travellers do not always meet with. We see but too frequently the man to whom the government intrusts some authority in foreign countries, him above all who is blinded by self-love to such a degree as to persuade himself that he changes his nature, and is no longer the same man, as soon as he gets into place, put on a cold and disgusting hauteur, which he takes for the becoming, but affable, tone of dignity; fear the approach of the observer sufficiently clear-sighted to perceive his folly and at times something worse; in short, put into play a multitude of little springs, among which incivility and want of respect are the most powerful in the eyes of the delicate traveller, in order to keep him at a distance; and, as I have heard some of them say, to get rid of troublesome inquiries. Jealous, besides, of the information that an enlightened observer gathers, in countries which the greater part of the persons of whom I am speaking did no more than inhabit; conceiving that observations of every kind of which most of them were incapable, ought, like the official concerns of their administration, to remain an affair of office, and be transmitted but by them alone, they employed

ployed their influence to create him obstacles and to thwart him in his projects.

These reflections, which my meeting with proud men, though with so few motives for being so, had suggested to me in the LEVANT and in the colonies, did not occupy my mind at RHODES. A friend to the sciences, M*** honoured and loaded with civilities those who cultivated them, and his zeal could be compared only to the amiable hospitality, which he took a pleasure in exercising towards them. He employed his leisure hours in collecting various articles of curiosity, which he took great care to send to FRANCE to the learned societies; a somewhat considerable number of medals, both of the Isle of RHODES and of CARAMANIA, had been acquired by him and addressed to the Academy of Belles Lettres of PARIS; and that company had charged M. DACIER with their correspondence with M***. It was to be regretted that his education in some way was not always equal to his good will; he had, for instance, singular notions of natural history. Whatever I could say to him, he considered salamanders, common in his island, as incombustible animals, and able to live in fire. His cook had found one of

them, he assured me, in the middle of the hottest brazier, as in its natural element: he took a delight in shewing it to me, preserved in spirits of wine; and his prepossession was so strong, that he did not notice that the reptile had its feet burnt. He insisted too that I should take charge, for the cabinet of natural history, of a piece of stone, the form of which made him believe that it was a very extraordinary human petrification; his persuasion, in this respect, was so complete, that, in a memorandum annexed to the present, he expressed his wish that some skilful hand might take off the first stony cover, under which he did not doubt that there would be discovered the integuments, the glands, the fibres, and all the most delicate parts of living nature.

These trifling mistakes, which we should not have taken the trouble to remark in other persons less animated with a love for the sciences, became, in some measure, respectable in M***, because they were a proof of his wish to render himself useful in every line; but that in which he distinguished himself most, was the exercise of his functions. Not one of the consuls in the LEVANT had acquired a more deserved consideration on the part of the commanders of French ships of war;

war; not one had more generally gained the respect and confidence of the captains of our merchant-vessels. He had frequently to struggle in favour of the latter against the *Nazir*, or intendant of the navy, who commanded at RHODES, in the absence of the pacha. This Turkish officer, an ill-disposed man and an enemy of the Europeans, sought every opportunity of vexing them. The French vessels which put into RHODES, were often the object of the extortions of the greedy Mussulman, as well as of M***'s courageous energy in defending them. This is a justice, which all the persons who took any interest in the trade of the LEVANT, felt a pleasure in rendering to him; and my worthy and unfortunate friend, the respectable and feeling D'ENTRECASTEAUX in particular, who, during his different cruises in the ARCHIPELAGO, had been witness of the exaggerated claims of the *Nazir* and of M***'s bold resistance, frequently spoke of the latter in the most honourable terms, and lamented his ill success in not obtaining reparation for the outrages which the French experienced at RHODES.

D'ENTRECASTEAUX had, on some occasions, joined his complaints to those of the
 consul;

consul; but it was to no purpose, and they produced only a dry and haughty letter, bordering on impertinence, from the French ambassador at CONSTANTINOPLE. M*** received it at the time when I was at RHODES, and he was so mortified at it, that he, from that moment, resolved to resign a post which he lost all hopes of occupying honourably, and in which he must have been long regretted.

Such was the conduct of the French government in TURKEY; it there shewed itself complaisant to excess, and tolerant even to meanness. It made nothing of abandoning its delegates, when, penetrated with their duties and the importance of their functions, they displayed any firmness. The Turks were become so habituated to this pusillanimous condescension, that it was not uncommon to see them break out against the French in the most serious excesses, which remained unpunished. The assassination of our consul at ALEXANDRIA was not revenged; nor was more satisfaction obtained respecting the two French interpreters, who, in the exercise of their functions, were delivered up, in SYRIA, to the horrible punishment of the bastinado on the soles of the feet; and one of whom

VOL. I. K expired

expired under the blows, and the other was deprived, for the rest of his days, of the power of walking*. A thousand other outrages have been likewise unpunished; and the protection which the French enjoyed in TURKEY was rather the effect of the good will of the Turks than of the vigour of the French government.

Our ambassadors at CONSTANTINOPLE paid little attention to the complaints which reached them from all parts of the LEVANT: they took good care not to disturb their own tranquillity, and to expose their own dignity, by importuning the Ottoman ministers with partial remonstrances; these remained in oblivion, as did they who addressed them under oppression and injustice. Like the envoys to the other powers, confining themselves to the sole politics of courts, the French ambassadors at CONSTANTINOPLE wished also to appear occupied only by politics, in a country where there are none; and, in order to affect to give themselves up entirely to an imaginary labour, they had for a long time been soliciting the

* I have given the particulars of these crimes in my *Travels in Upper and Lower Egypt*, vol. i. page 119 and following.

establishment of a general consul, who, residing in the capital of the Turkish empire, might rid them of commercial affairs, which they disdained.

And this haughty indifference, so prejudicial to the interests of the nation, was not always peculiar to the former delegates. Some consuls, of the number of those who, as VOLTAIRE said, thought themselves Roman consuls, set up too for agents in diplomatic affairs, although, by their institutions, they were agents in commerce. They considered as beneath them honourable and useful functions, in order to create for themselves frivolous and imaginary ones: they assumed a tone of dignity and importance, which, in the eyes of many people, are the equivalents of merit, and they converted themselves into ambassadors. I saw, at ALEXANDRIA, a consul, who, in the last war against the English, did not fail to notify the military events which came to his knowledge, through old gazettes, to the *Serdar*, the Mamalûk who commanded there, and who was absolutely ignorant that war had broken out in EUROPE, and even that there existed any difference between the French and the English, whom he alike confounded and despised under the

name of *Franks*, and not unfrequently under that of *dogs*. As soon as he was informed of the first hostilities, this same consul issued an ordinance, by which he forbade five or six French factors settled at ALEXANDRIA, to hold any communication with two or three English factors who were likewise there, or even to speak to them. Thus, in a moment, he destroyed the old and necessary intimacy which reigned on a foreign and desolate land, between a small number of men sharing the same anxieties, the same dangers, and having no recreation and diversion but in parties, which, though formed by subjects of inimical governments, presented only a society of friends.

Accordingly, with the exception of a small number of consuls who still distinguished themselves by extensive knowledge, and by a worthy exercise of their functions, it was lamentable to see the interests of commerce, that is, one of the most certain sources of national prosperity, consigned to ignorant and unexperienced hands. Under the reign of LOUIS XIV. a period when our commercial operations in the LEVANT were more flourishing, our privileges more extensive, and the French more respected in TURKEY, the consuls

consuls who resided there were taken from the class of merchants, better qualified than any others to give to commerce a strong impulse, and to direct its concerns with greater success. Indeed, such choices, the custom of which the Dutch have preserved, were far preferable to those of giddy youths sent from PARIS, under LOUIS XVI. to scandalize the sea-port towns in the LEVANT by their ignorance and inutility. The greater part of the old consuls, whose long experience, in a country where nothing can supply its place, became, as well as old services, incontestable motives for being continued, had been replaced by men no less strangers to trade than to the customs of the Orientals; by men among whom we might in vain have looked for other titles to the place which they occupied, than the favour which had placed them in it; by men, in short, who were eaten up by the foolish vanity of considering themselves and of acting as ambassadors.

Thence it happened that, in order to compensate for the ignorant indifference of people of acknowledged incapacity, local affairs remained in the hands of the droguemans, or interpreters attached to the consulates. These useful men, among whom I have known

some very estimable ones, were, from their infancy, born or bred at CONSTANTINOPLE, where national energy grew weak, and where they contracted the habit of dreading the Mussulmans. Clothed like the Turks, and become, as it were, foreigners to their country by their manners and their connexions, they introduced, in their concerns with the men in power, the uneasy timidity of persons subjected to oriental despotism; the quivering accents of weakness were frequently substituted to the tone of dignity; and on those occasions in which it was necessary to speak with firmness, they frequently employed nothing but humble representations. What idea could the Turks form of a government which expressed itself no otherwise than by weak and trembling organs? Thus it is that FRANCE daily lost her credit and consequence in TURKEY, that breaches of respect and justice were accumulated, and that the way was paved to the entire loss of her influence and commerce.

If, among the agents in the LEVANT, there were any who, penetrated with the importance of their functions and the extent of their duties, employed all their means to support the honour of the flag of FRANCE, and the interest of her trade, not by the barren ex-

terior of shew and ostentation, but by a conduct at once wise and firm, respect without servility, a scrupulous attention to avoid every thing that might displease the authorities near which they were placed, and give them umbrage, yet at the same time not to suffer any infringement on the rights fixed by treaties; the latter, I say, contenting themselves with being useful without pomp, and with rendering important services without knowing the art of making the most of them, remained without advancement, and, in general, sickened by disgust, like the respectable consul at RHODES.

This Island of ASIA, which the observations of M. CHAZELLES place in latitude $36^{\circ} 26'$, is much longer than it is broad; its greatest length, in a direction from north to south, is about twelve leagues; it is but six in breadth, and its circuit is commonly estimated at forty-four leagues. Its form is nearly triangular, whence it obtained the name of *TRINACRIA*, which it bore in former times, with a great many others.

The city which bears the same name of RHODES, and which is the capital of the island as well as the chief seat of its government, is situated to the north-east. It is fortified,

tified, and its ramparts partake of the state of neglect and decay of every thing that is in the hands of the Turks. But proud recollections are attached to them, and will preserve them eternally in the memory of mankind; they will, to the latest posterity, be a testimony of what valour can achieve against the most formidable forces, valour which duty and a sense of honour alone inspired, and which was neither sullied by the ambition of conquests, nor the allurements of the spoils of the vanquished. It was on this theatre of glory that VILLIERS DE L'ILE ADAM, loaded with years and with the palms of heroism, and who, to be one of the most renowned generals in the world, wanted no more than the command of a large army, inspiring a handful of combatants already multiplied by their own courage, long checked the attacks and efforts of the victorious arms of the proud SOLIMAN. History has transmitted to us the unheard-of prodigies which rendered illustrious the defence of RHODES. SOLIMAN's triumph, which cost him a hundred thousand of his best troops, was at least not profaned by acts of atrociousness and barbarity; and he gave not the example of the abominable cruelty, which, in contempt of
solemn

solemn conventions, the lieutenant of one of his successors, a warrior who knew only how to be ferocious, exercised, at the capture of FAMAGUSTA, towards its valiant defender. The Ottoman prince was acquainted with all the value of courage; he understood how to appreciate it, and pay it homage even in his enemies: he loaded the grand master VILLIERS DE L'ILE ADAM with attention and deference, and endeavoured to make him forget the blow which the fate of arms had just given him.

Abandoned by the rest of EUROPE, the knights of the order of ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM were forced to evacuate RHODES, and carry to MALTA the remnant of their own body, which had escaped from the sword of the Mussulmans; there, they acquired fresh claims to the admiration of future ages; there, their heroism was a long time maintained by a crowd of glorious actions. But the forgetfulness of respectable, yet degenerated institutions, an empty show of obedience to old customs, and a frivolous vanity, assumed the place of a noble and just pride; licentiousness, that powerful mean of destruction to ancient institutions, which time itself had respected, changed the face of an association whose brilliant

liant career reckoned a great number of years of glory; and, at the expiration of a few days of irresolute defence, it annihilated itself, by giving up the last asylum of its honourable existence to an army much less numerous, but, indeed, much more formidable than that of SOLIMAN.

In several places of the city of RHODES are still to be seen marks of the ancient possession of the order of ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM; a long street there preserves the name of *RUE DES CHEVALIERS*; it is perfectly straight, and formed of old houses, on which remain the armorial bearings of the members of the order. Some of these buildings still exhibit the arms of the Pope; and it is rather astonishing that the Turks, consummate masters in the infernal art of destruction, have respected these emblems of the sovereignty of the catholic pontiff whom they hold in abhorrence, because they consider him as the natural and irreconcilable enemy of their religion. However, we cease to be surpris'd at this sort of inconsistency in the actions of the Mussulmans, when we have seen them, in our days, fly to arms, and take a very active part in a war, one of the motives of which is the re-establishment

establishment of the court of ROME and of the order of MALTA.

The ancient church of ST. JOHN is become the principal mosque; the hospital has been transformed into public granaries, and the palace of the grand master, falling into ruins, is almost entirely deserted. The harbour itself has, in a manner, changed its face; it no longer is that basin, whose deep waters afforded a commodious shelter to ships of every size; no longer are those quays enlivened by all the activity of a flourishing trade. It is now little frequented, except by Greek boats, and by a few merchant-vessels which put in there; it is half choked up, and ships of war are obliged to cast anchor without, where they are but indifferently protected from the winds and waves by some points of land and some shoals. The entrance of the harbour is defended, on the one side, by a square tower, constructed by a grand master of the order; inscriptions and other marks recall to mind the period of its foundation; the Turks still call it *St. JOHN's Tower*, although the Greeks have changed this name into that of *St. NICHOLAS*, more generally adopted in the LEVANT. On the other side, is a tower not so high, nor so strong, which is named *St. ANGELO's* or *St.*

MICHAEL's

MICHAEL's Tower. The harbour is as if divided into two by a small mole, which projects within it, and forms an enclosure, into which boats alone can enter, and which, on that account, is called *Boat-harbour*.

Independently of the large harbour, there was another on each side; the one was the harbour for the gallies, where they can no longer enter at this day; the other is choked up, and almost entirely dry. Every thing is destroyed, every thing is annihilated under a government which knows only how to enjoy, or rather to abuse the present, and to which the most simple calculations of foresight are unknown.

In the harbour of RHODES, I learnt how sailors contrive to get rid of rats that are troublesome, and to make them pass to their neighbours. Our vessel was full of these gnawing animals; they there occasioned considerable havock, and devoured or spoilt the provisions. A Greek bark, loaded with apples, came and cast anchor near us. Our sailors, without making the smallest noise, ran out to her, during the night, a hawser or cablet, and then drew it tight, so that it might serve as a bridge to the rats: the latter, attracted by the smell of the apples, of which they are
very

very fond, passed, without the exception of a single one, into the bark, and there gave the Greeks reason to curse their neighbour.

Yards for ship-building, which might, with so much reason, be called workshops of dilapidation, are established at RHODES for the Ottoman navy: the timber which is employed there is taken from the fine and vast forests of CARAMANIA, and even from those of the island; but the latter, cut down without reserve, are almost exhausted, and now afford but feeble resources. Ships are built with so much slowness, and the choice of the timber which is introduced into their construction is so bad, that it has happened more than once to see them half rotten before they are entirely finished. The builders scarcely employ any other wood than fir, which, when it is cut down in a proper season, and preserved with the necessary precautions, is almost incorruptible. The pines, which, in this country, are felled in January and in August, are reckoned to unite the best qualities: but the Turks, paying no regard to this observation, and caring little to make for their sovereign works of lasting nature, cut down the trees at all times, at the period when the sap is rising as well as when it is at a stand; they likewise
indifferently

indifferently make use of green wood, full of sap and resin, which bends, warps, and soon decays; so that before a ship is launched, her ribs and timbers are frequently rotten, without any attempt being made to replace them, or without the building and equipment of a vessel, whose frame is already decayed, being discontinued.

The greatest disorder reigns in the administration of these dock-yards; all those who are employed in them vie with each other in plundering; the head men, in particular, are very well versed in the art of acquiring, by their robberies, multiplied to excess, considerable riches, which, most times, become in their turn the object of the cupidity and plunder of men greater than themselves. This vast gang of public robbers, devouring each other successively, is one of the attributes of the Ottoman government, if we may thus call the feat of disorder: this is one of the political vices which preys on it with the most effect, and which, for a long time past, has been paving the way to its ruin; it is inherent in every reign of confusion: and we have seen very recently that it was not necessary to go to TURKEY to meet with it in all its energy.

Who

Who has not heard of the famous colossus, one of the seven wonders of the world, which, being placed, it is said, at the entrance of the harbour of RHODES, was tall enough for ships to pass between its legs? According to PLINY*, this was a monument which commanded admiration. It was the production of an artist, born at LINDUS, one of the towns of the Island of RHODES, and a pupil of LYSIPPUS, a statuary of great celebrity. Other historians affirm that he only began it, and that, having killed himself, another sculptor of the same country completed the work. Be this as it may, twelve years were consumed in erecting this colossus. Its height was seventy cubits, which is about one hundred and five of our feet; some authors have carried it to eighty cubits, or one hundred and twenty feet, and even to one hundred and fifty feet. At the expiration of fifty-six years, it was thrown down by an earthquake; and prostrate as it lay, it still appeared a prodigy. Few men could clasp the thumb of this gigantic statue; each of its fingers was larger than most statues: its different parts, when broken, shewed

* Hist. Nat. lib. xxxiv. cap. vii.

in their inside vast cavities, some of which were filled with stones of an immense size, intended to add to its weight, and give it greater stability*.

No one thought of raising again so heavy a mass; it remained extended on the ground near nine hundred years, and it was not till the year 672 that it was carried off, after having been taken to pieces†. Almost all authors agree that it required nine hundred camels to remove its remains; and the load of each camel being estimated at eight hundred pounds, it results that the weight of the colossus was near seven hundred and twenty thousand of our pounds‡. All the bronze of which it was formed was shipped and carried away by the Arabs, when they made themselves masters of the city.

However, the common opinion which represents the colossus of RHODES at the entrance of the harbour, and ships passing in full sail

* PLINY, at the place quoted.

† CONST. *Porphyrog. de Administr. Imperii*, cap xxi. and xxii.

‡ *Memoires de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres*, vol. xxiv. page 360. Reflections on the chapter of the 34th book of PLINY, in which mention is made of works in bronze, by Count CAYLUS.

between its extended legs, is erroneous, as several of the learned, and M. DE CAYLUS in particular, have very clearly proved: they, with much greater probability, place this monument of the power of the Rhodians at some distance from the sea*.

This enormous statue was not the only one that attracted attention in the city of RHODES; PLINY reckons a hundred other colossuses not so large, which rose majestically in its different quarters †. Besides these, here were to be seen five others, the work of BRIAXIS, and representing divinities. This extraordinary quantity of colossal figures, assembled within the walls of a single city, had obtained the Rhodians the surname of *Colossians*. If we recall to mind that common statues were here so extremely numerous, that the ancients compared their number to that of the inhabitants; if we remark too that the most ancient school of painting, some positive traces of which are to be discovered among the Greeks, was esta-

* *Mémoire de CAYLUS*, before quoted.

† *Sunt alii minores hoc in eâdem urbe colossi centum numero, sed ubicunque singuli fuissent nobilitaturi locum.* PLINY, lib. xxxiv. cap. vii.

blished in the Island of RHODES, in the time of ANACREON*; that one of the most famous painters of antiquity, PROTOGENES of CAUNUS, here painted his master-pieces, we shall form an idea of the degree of splendour and activity to which the fine arts were here carried; and if we cast our eyes on the state of depopulation, ruin, and wretchedness, in which the present town languishes, we shall have the measure of the mischief that can be effected by barbarous and despotic ignorance.

But the colossus the most distinguished, that which was named the *Colossus of the Sun*, had been erected in honour of that deity. The whole island was consecrated to him; one of the most beautiful temples of antiquity had likewise been constructed in honour of him in the capital of the island, and his worship was there as general, as that of VENUS in the Island of CYPRUS. This was the effect of the gratitude of a people, whose territory, according to the general opinion, being inundated by an extraordinary deluge, had owed its desiccation to the rays of the sun†, who

* PAUW, *Recherches Philosophiques sur les Grecs*, vol. ii. page 94.

† DIODORUS OF SICILY, lib. iv. cap. lvi.

also seems to have adopted the island as the temple of his mild influence: there is no day in the year in which he does not appear at least for some moments; and this remark of the ancients* agrees perfectly with the observations of the moderns. M***, who had resided at RHODES for several years, assured me that, whatever were the opakeness and quantity of the clouds, the sun always found means to shew himself at intervals.

An island which the luminary of day favoured in so peculiar a manner, could not fail to be the subject of the praises of the poets; they called it, in their brilliant language, the *daughter of VENUS*, and the *wife of the SUN*. It bore several other names in antiquity; the most remarkable, because it is connected with the nature of the climate and of the soil, is that of *Macaria*, fortunate, which it shared with the Island of CYPRUS. It, nevertheless, surpasses that island, if not by the fertility of the land, at least by its milder and more agree-

* They said the same thing of *Syracuse*.—See PLINY, lib. ii. cap. lxii. The Island of RHODES, which the sun seemed never to abandon, was distinguished by the epithet of *clear*.

“*Laudabunt alii claram Rhodon.*”

HOR.

able temperature. Here the heat is not excessive; here long droughts do not burn the plants, dry up the waters, or cause the inhabitants to suffer. A temperate climate, a pure air, fine springs which at all times supply wants, and are conducive to agreeableness; vallies of a rich and fertile soil, covered by plentiful harvests, and clothed with rich pastures, shaded by trees bearing precious fruits, such as the olive, the orange, and the fig tree, which flowers embellish with their lustre and perfume with their sweet emanations; sloping hills on which the vine is cultivated, or which present to numerous flocks a luxuriant and odoriferous herbage; mountains where grow the most beautiful trees, whose verdure is eternal, would still render it one of the most delightful abodes in the world, did not the iron hand of the Turks efface a part of the colours of this smiling picture. A gloomy nakedness diffuses melancholy over places formerly adorned by the riches of nature and industry; and the men who are called thither by an agreeable and truly happy country, are driven back by the terror inspired by a horde of spoilers. Happiness no longer inhabits a land formerly *fortunate*; and the golden shower, which the poets of antiquity

caused

caused to fall there, as an emblem of its riches and brilliant advantages, is converted into a storm of desolation.

The name of the Island of RHODES has exercised the researches and conjectures of etymologists. BOCHART, one of the most indefatigable, building on the name of *OPHIUSA*, that is, *SNAKE ISLAND*, by which the ancients distinguished it on account of the number of those dangerous reptiles with which it was infested, no doubt, when it was first inhabited, says that the Phœnicians also called it *SNAKE ISLAND*, in their language *GESIRAT-RHOD*, this latter word signifying a snake, whence the Greeks afterwards formed the name of *RHODES*, which the island has since preserved. This learned conjecture is not the most natural; and it is more simple, methinks, to derive the name of *RHODES* from that of *RHODOS*, which, in Greek, signifies *a rose*, a flower very common in this country, and whose figure is to be found on the medals of the island, of which it is the emblem.

After having lost and several times recovered their liberty, the Rhodians passed under the domination of the Romans. At the time of the decline of the Greek empire, they became the subjects of the Genoese, of the Arabs,

of the knights of St. JOHN OF JERUSALEM, and, lastly, the slaves of the Ottomans. This was the term of their glory and of their commerce; and had not history handed down to us proofs of their ancient love for the sciences and fine arts, of the magnificence of their city, of their industry in seconding Nature, who had poured her gifts with such profusion on their territory, of their enterprising activity, and of their skill in navigation, in short, of the great trade of which their island was the centre, no one could suspect, were he now at RHODES, that he was in their island and among their descendants.

CHAPTER VIII.

Ancient cities of the Island of Rhodes.—Ravages of men.—Earthquakes.—Formation of the Island of Rhodes.—Plague.—Inhabitants of the island.—Its happy position, its harbours, its productions.—Bartavelles, or Greek partridges.—Partridges.—Turtles.—Picture of a beautiful solitude.—Quails.—Woodcocks.—Fishes.—Sponges.—Coral.

THE city of RHODES is at this day the only one in the island; at very ancient periods there were three others, which no longer existed in the time of PLINY*. The most considerable of these three cities, the country of CHARES, who made or at least began the famous colossus consecrated to the Sun, was called LINDUS, and contained a magnificent temple, dedicated to MINERVA. Some vestiges of it still remain,

* Hist. Nat. lib. xiv.

with the name of *LINDO*, in a hamlet situated nearly in the middle of the east side of the island, and entirely peopled by Greeks: its harbour, by no means spacious, is much frequented by the small craft of the country, which there take in the commodities of the island, and bring thither merchandize from other parts. Accordingly almost all the inhabitants of *LINDO* are given to commerce, or to the carrying-trade of the neighbouring coasts and islands; they navigate with small fast-sailing vessels which they themselves construct, and to which they give greater solidity than to the ships that come off the stocks of *RHODES* for the account of the government. A few Lindians also employ themselves in rural labours; but, of all the quarters of the island, that which they inhabit being the least fit for tillage, on account of its stony and uneven nature, culture principally consists of plantations of vines, fig-trees, and others.

The second city, which bore the name of *CAMYROS*, was situated on the west coast, almost opposite to *LINDUS*; there no longer exist any traces of it but the name of *CAMYRO*, a Greek village, built on the same spot.

No indication is to be found of the most ancient of these three cities, *JALYSSOS*; it is
known

known only that it was situated on the north coast of the island.

When we review in thought this innumerable multitude of cities and great edifices; which have covered in different places the surface of the earth, and which have been successively effaced, we cannot but yield to the painful sensations excited by the rage of mankind. Monuments which the genius of the arts and the patience of industry erect with so much solidity and slowness, crumble in an instant under the blows of impetuous barbarism, or by the more sudden shocks of the terrible art of war, which delights only in blood and ruins. Man throws down what man builds up; in his mind time is too slow; he anticipates the ravages of ages, for which he seems to envy them; and, in his rage for destruction, he leaves, very far behind him, the most ferocious animals, whose malice he surpasses, by being himself the destroyer of his own species. The partial confusion which violent commotions of the earth sometimes occasion, are not of a very perceptible effect on the map of devastations, if we compare them to the vast extent of ruins with which the hand of man has strewn the surface of the globe: and if history makes mention of
the

the convulsions of nature, which have anciently thrown down edifices in the Island of RHODES, war and the fury of superstitious ignorance have, without comparison, there destroyed and overthrown more than time and subterraneous shocks.

Earthquakes were, nevertheless, rather frequent in this island, at the time of its formation, if, indeed, it be true that it issued from the bosom of the waters, as was imagined by the ancients, who considered it as a present from the sea, whence they gave it the name of *PELAGIA*, daughter of the sea, in order to preserve the memory of its origin. But its great proximity to the continent, the advanced cape which stretches out towards the coast, and which appears to have formed the junction between the island and the main land, lead me to presume, with some degree of probability, that they have been united, and that the island was formerly no more than a great promontory of ASIA MINOR. Be this as it may, the Island of RHODES is no longer in our days agitated by earthquakes; and it would be an abode equally safe and agreeable, if two other scourges still more dreadful, the plague and Ottoman despotism, did not convert it into a place of fear and desolation.

The

The Turks, who daily live and die victims of the plague, carry the germs of it wherever they land. No precaution is taken to prevent its communication, or to stop its progress. A person infected with the plague penetrates, with as much liberty as the most healthy man, into every part of the empire, and no one thinks of avoiding his company. From this circumstance, it is not astonishing that the Island of RHODES, like all the other countries of TURKEY, is exposed to the most terrible of contagions, which cannot be attributed to its climate, one of the most wholesome and most agreeable in the world.

I shall, on this occasion, mention a preservative against the plague, which some Italian monks of the order of ST. FRANCIS, known in the LEVANT by the appellation of *Fathers of the Holy Land*, communicated to me at RHODES, where they had a *hospice**, and served as chaplains to the French vice-consul, for this magistrate was the only one there of his nation; his physician even was a Greek of the country. These monks affirmed, from their own experience, and that of their brethren established in many other countries of

* A place of hospitable entertainment for travellers.

the EAST, that an infallible mean of guarding against the plague, consists in swallowing, every morning, fasting, a glass of one's own urine, in which the juice of a lemon has been expressed. This remedy, or to make use of the term consecrated in medical language, this simple and easy prophylactic, the efficacy of which the experience of some men, forced by their profession to live in the midst of contagion, appears to warrant, deserves more confidence than the complicated recipes and the long indications of diet, prescribed by physicians, to whom books have served as observations, and a theory often doubtful, as experience.

With the exception of the city of RHODES itself, which is almost entirely inhabited by Turks, who would render it an abode insupportable to any others but themselves, the population of the island is composed of Greeks, descendants of those famous Rhodians, whose valour, ardent love of liberty, taste for the sciences and fine arts, skill in navigation, and activity in commerce, have been celebrated in the annals of antiquity. The long tyranny under which they have been enslaved, has checked the transports of generous souls, and extinguished the torch of genius, and the fiery ardour

ardour of glory and riches: the Greeks of RHODES have preserved, as it were, no more than the shadow of the great energy of their ancestors, a few traces of which are scarcely to be found in their fondness for navigation and traffic, which most of them still follow with some success. They are still, like their forefathers, bold and skilful navigators, able ship-builders, industrious traders; and if the beautiful countries of Asiatic GREECE were destined to change their masters, it would be at RHODES, more than in any other quarter, that we should meet with the powerful succours of courage, of the spirit of liberty, and of intelligence.

Placed on the route which vessels from the north of GREECE must hold in order to repair to SYRIA and EGYPT, the Island of RHODES would, in other hands, become the general emporium of a very considerable commerce; its ports would afford places of shelter and refreshment: and its proximity to the coasts would render it mistress of part of the trade of ASIA, as it would participate in that of EGYPT and of the other neighbouring countries. A situation so happy could not have remained useless but under the government of the

the Turks; under any other, it would become a fertile source of prosperity.

While its position, its vicinity to a long extent of coasts and numerous islands, and the good quality of the timber which its forests furnish for ship-building, necessarily make the people of RHODES a people of navigators; several harbours invite thither commerce, and multiply and facilitate its means. Capes, which render the figure of the island very irregular, form road-steads, havens, and bays, in which vessels can deposit and receive their loadings, supply themselves with excellent water and provisions of every sort, and take shelter, secure from the impetuosity of the winds and waves.

One of the principal of these harbours, next to the port of RHODES, which, half choked up, is waiting for masters and repairing labours, is that of LINDO; of which I have already spoken. Near the cape of this name, and at the entrance of the gulf, is a rock which is considerably elevated above the surface of the sea. On the same east coast of the island, and to the north of LINDO, is another gulf more open, with a bay less safe, between Cape PARADI and Cape TENDA; and to the south, is found SAN NICOLO Bay, whose

whose entrance is divided by a shoal somewhat extensive. Farther to the south, is Cape *SAN GIOVANNI*, a low point, off which an islet bears a tower that served as a light-house to navigators. The most considerable and the most southern promontory of the island, is that to which has been given the name of Cape *TRANQUILLO*; it forms, with Cape *SAN GIOVANNI*, a narrow and deep gulf, where ships lie in safety; and, with Cape *CANDURA*, a large bay more open. A shoal, situated to the southward of the entrance of the gulf of Cape *TRANQUILLO*, is not without danger in making the land on this coast. The sea appears to have opened for itself a passage in the promontory of Cape *TRANQUILLO*, and to have separated from it, to the west, two small fragments, steril islets, which bear the names of *GORDEI* and of *STRONGELO*; and to the south, a more considerable portion, which forms an island, called *SANTA CATHERINA*.

To the west, there are also above Cape *CANDURA* some havens more or less large, more or less secure; and this coast is, in general, sandy, bathed by deep waters, and, according to the seaman's phrase, very safe, that is, free from rocks and shoals, and may be approached without the risk of running aground.

A single

A single river bearing the name of *CANDURA*; which it gives to the cape in whose vicinity it discharges itself into the sea, waters the interior parts of the island; but numerous springs of running water also diffuse fecundity in their meandering course. Although hilly, the soil proves suitable to several sorts of productions: Fine trees, which greedy and improvident cupidity has reduced to a small number, majestically crowned the highest mountains; and the resin of the greater part of them, supplied abundantly the wants of the navy. On the sloping hills, fig-trees, which yield a very large quantity of good fruit, carob-trees, and others both useful and agreeable, grow with facility; the vine also there holds its place, and the wine which is drawn from it, highly extolled by the ancients, on account of its delicacy and its perfume, has preserved something of those good qualities, and may still pass for a very good wine, especially when it is made with care. I drank some at M***'s, which was not inferior to the best wine of GREECE. The vallies afford rich pastures, and the plains produce harvests of every sort; but agriculture would be more flourishing there, and occupy a greater extent of ground, if, like every other branch of industry, it had not to bear the obstacles

obstacles and vexations of an unjust and oppressive administration.

The inhabitants of RHODES have a great taste for gardens. The city and the other habitations are surrounded by orchards, in which are found variety, agreeableness, coolness, and utility; pot-herbs, as well as flowers, are there cultivated with attention.

Stags and other species of game enliven the forests and plains: in the latter, barta-velles or Greek partridges are to be met with in great numbers*. M * * *, vice-consul at RHODES, kept in a cage a bird of this species; but he was obliged, from time to time, to cut the tip of its bill, which grew so long and crooked, as to prevent the bird from taking its food. No bird, perhaps, bears confinement with greater difficulty than partridges in general; they need, more than any other, open air and a somewhat spacious ground, in order that they may not be restricted in the rapidity and frequency of their excursions: every confined space is unsuitable to them: if they are kept in narrow and covered places, they are attacked by all sorts

* BUFFON, Hist. Nat. des Ois. et planche Enluminée, No. 231.—*Tetrax rufus*. LINN.

of indispositions; and, after leading for some time a languishing existence, they soon find death in the very attentions which are lavished on them, and which cannot supply the place of the advantages of a life frequently agitated, but accompanied by all the charms of liberty. The Greek partridge belonging to the vice-consul of RHODES would not have been subject to the excessive prolongation of its bill, which, without foreign and unnatural assistance, would have occasioned it to perish from inanition, had its narrow prison afforded it the means proper for wearing down its point by repeated friction.

Some pretty turtles, of a reddish gray plumage, and with a narrow, black semi-collar, similar to those which I had seen in EGYPT*, frequent the orchards by which the city of RHODES is surrounded, and add to them fresh charms. The motionless flower, however brilliant it may be, attaches and flatters the eye; but it wants life, without which beauty causes only sterile impressions, agreeable indeed, but without vivacity, without

* *Tourterelles à collier du Sénégal.*—BUFFON, Hist. Nat. des Oiseaux étrangers qui ont rapport aux tourterelles, article second.—*Columba vinacea*, LINN.—Ang. Collared Senegal turtle.

movement, like the object that communicates them: every thing is enlivened, on the contrary, when the verdure of the groves serves as an asylum and abode for charming birds, when the flowers are caressed and betrayed alternately by those winged insects, brilliant like them, which know how to touch them, every moment, without tarnishing them, and which themselves appear flying flowers. What sweet emotions do we not experience, when, in the silence of a shaded retreat, clothed with verdure and enamelled with flowers, we find ourselves in the midst of several pairs of the sweetest and most tender birds, which constituted a part of the train of VENUS! Cooings, plaintive and languishing expressions of a burning flame, are heard on all sides; the ear is not offended, and they invite to a soft reverie, the prelude of sensibility. On this tree, two of these birds, which nature and love have united, indulge in the most expressive marks of tenderness; we see them placed near each other, with their necks bent in a contrary direction, seizing each other's bill, with their bills partly open, pushing it back and drawing it forward alternately, and in these representations of mutual attack and resistance, quit each other, rejoin each other,

and pant with love. On that tree, more lofty and more tufted, and in a nest of downy and mossy leaves, repose the fruits of an ardent love; the mother covers them, and warms them with her body and her wings: they sleep; but she who hatched them, has her head raised, and her look bespeaks her anxiety; she watches, and her restless eyes are directed towards every place around her. One sentiment alone occupies her, and absorbs all her faculties: this is the repose and preservation of the dear objects, which she could not defend, alas! but by her grief. The scene changes at the expiration of a few moments; the mother has quitted the nest, the little ones spread their wings, stand up on their legs as yet unsteady, open their bill with all their might, and by weak, but repeated cries, they announce the joy which they feel: it is the father who arrives, loaded with the provender of the family: he distributes it equally; he then resumes the place of his mate, who does not stray far from a spot where are fixed all her affections, and then only to procure her food, and bring, in her turn, that of her nestlings.

These living images of tenderness and paternal solicitude are lessons more impressive for

for delicate minds, than those which are imbibed from the best books and the most eloquent discourses: these are affecting examples which Nature displays to our eyes, and which she invites us to follow. Happy, indeed, is he who, simple in his habits, as in his affections, is acquainted with the sweet effusions of love and the occupations more serious, but not less sweet, which accompany a fertile union, the pains, as well as the pleasures of which, are equally felt, equally shared!

Quails, which, in their passage from EUROPE to AFRICA, disperse and stop on several islands, do not rest themselves on that of RHODES; and what proves that the line which those birds traverse, in order to change the climate, is invariable like the season of their migration, is, that quails have never been seen to arrive at RHODES, although the island is not very distant from their route. But woodcocks pass thither regularly every year, and in considerable numbers. They arrive in November, and their stay lasts about a month. I have also seen these latter birds, which, nevertheless, seem to prefer cold countries, seek at the same period, but in small bodies, a mild winter in the humid plains of LOWER EGYPT.

Fish is very plentiful on the coast of RHODES, which was called the island *abounding with fish*. The sea, which furrounds it, likewise furnishes coral and fine sponges. The land there is rich in fossils of every species, and there the geologist might form a curious and interesting collection.

Beauty and mildness of climate, fecundity of soil, variety and abundance in the necessary or agreeable articles of life, a situation valuable for useful enterprises and a prosperous trade—nothing is wanting to the Island of RHODES, except to be delivered from the Turks, who possess, in so eminent a degree, the fatal talent of converting the most happy abode into a spot to be shunned and dreaded.

CHAPTER IX.

Departure from Rhodes. — Sea-serpent. — Fangri. — Maritime prizes. — Carpathian Sea. — Island of Eleusa. — Phoenix. — Porto Cavaliere. — Canal of Rhodes. — Small clouds which announce storms. — Fishes. — Island of Symi. — Divers. — Cape Crio. — Cnidus. — Fishery. — Onions. — Garlic. — Navigation. — Cranes. — Ducks. — Calamary or cuttlefish. — Arrival at Stancho.

WE might consider ourselves as very fortunate in having put into the harbour of RHODES, on the approach of the storm which arose on the very day that we entered it. We should have had some difficulty to resist it in narrow channels, where the sea is always rough, with a small vessel, ill found and as ill conducted. The bad weather lasted, almost without interruption, during the four days, which the ship remained in the harbour; and if it prevented us from keeping the sea, it permitted me at least to make some excursions

into the island, and to sketch the picture of it which I have just presented.

At length, on the morning of the 28th of October, the horizon having cleared up, and the wind subsided, the captain of the polacre dispatched a messenger after me, to some distance from the city, in order to request me to embark in haste; and we sailed out of the harbour, by means of a pleasant breeze from the south-west, which soon forsook us, in order to make room again for a wind equally contrary and impetuous.

A small fishing-boat, which came alongside of our ship, afforded me an opportunity of increasing my stock of provisions; I was the only person that purchased a few fishes; the captain, who but seldom consented to partake of my meals, for fear of being obliged to invite me to his, introduced, into his manner of living, the parsimony, or, to speak more correctly, the stinginess with which the seamen of PROVENCE are pretty generally reproached: cheese, anchovies, and olives, constituted his usual fare, as well as that of his crew.

Among the fishes which I procured, was a muræna, of the species which, in the MEDITERRANEAN, is commonly called sea-serpents,

pents, because it has not only the form and the quick and waving movements of serpents, but also the beauty and the variety of colours which adorn the greater part of those reptiles. This name of sea-serpent has been given to several sorts of fishes; and there still reigns some obscurity in their divisions, because the particularities which distinguish them have been confounded, and, in the descriptions which most authors have given of them, they have attributed to some species the characters which belong to others. This has induced me to cause an engraving to be made of the *muræna* or sea-serpent, which I met with in the canal of RHODES. (See *Plate IV. fig. 1*). I shall add to it a few notes, which will increase the knowledge already acquired respecting this species of fish, to which the name of *flûte** has likewise been given.

Its head is elongated, compressed on the sides, by no means large, in comparison to the length of the body, and diminishing perceptibly in thickness to the rostrum, which is almost pointed. The opening of the

* See DAUBENTON, *Encyclopédie Méthodique*, histoire naturelle des poisons, article de la *flûte*. *Muræna Helena*. — LINN.

mouth is large; the jaws are flattened throughout their length: a judicious observer has compared them, on account of their form, to the bill of a goose, and this comparison is very just*.

The inside of the jaws is armed with a formidable set of very sharp teeth, of unequal size and different form, some being small and straight, others long, sharper, moveable, and bent towards the bottom of the mouth. All the inside of the upper jaw is furnished with these teeth, which, on its edges, are smaller than in the middle; the under has none but on the edges. It has been asserted that the bite of this *muræna* is venemous, and thence it has been inferred that its flesh is unwholesome; but, if the wounds inflicted by jaws, beset with a multitude of sharp-edged points, be not venemous, they must more certainly occasion cruel pains by the lacerations which these teeth, of various lengths, multiply in the flesh at different depths.

And this apparatus so cutting, which the great voracity of the *muræna* renders still more formidable, has furnished man, ever ingenious in tormenting his fellow-creatures, with a new kind of punishment, forgotten long since,

* BE'LON, *di Aquatil.* lib. i. cap. xii.

in order to make room for others not less cruel, not less barbarous, and the history of which, the bloody annals of the ferocity of mankind, would be equally curious and revolting. In the time of the Roman emperors, slaves condemned to death were thrown into fish-ponds filled with murænæ, where the unhappy beings expired, devoured alive by a great number of those voracious animals, which fastened on every part of their body.

At the extremity of the upper jaw are some appendages or apophyses, short, broad, and fistulous, which WILLUGHBY considers as the organs of hearing*. The eyes are small, and placed on the upper jaw, much nearer to the extremity of that jaw than to the angles of the mouth†; they are covered by a transparent and bluish pellicle, and the pupil is surrounded by an orange-coloured circle. The apertures of the nostrils are placed very near the eyes; another small round opening, near the gills, serves the fish for throwing out the water.

* *Historia Piscium*, lib. iv, sect. ii. cap. i.

† WILLUGHBY, and after him DAUBENTON, have said that the eyes of this muræna are placed in the middle of the distance between the extremity of the rostrum and the angles of the jaws; this is not the case in the species which I am describing.

The form of the body of this *muræna* is nearly that of the eel; it is only shorter, thicker, and more compressed on the sides. It neither has pectoral nor ventral fins. At some distance from the head, begins, on the back, a fin somewhat elevated, which runs along the back, surrounds the tail, and terminates beneath near the anus; this long fin is covered throughout its whole extent by the skin of the body.

The smooth, viscous, and slippery skin of the *muræna* is very diversified in its colours. The rostrum is blackish at its extremity; the top of the head is of a reddish brown, spotted with yellow. On a ground of a reddish brown, which becomes deeper in approaching the tail, black specks and large yellow spots, mixed with a reddish tinge, are spread on the upper part of the fish; the belly and sides, as far as the aperture of the gills, as well as the lower part of the under jaw, are of a fawn colour, and variegated with brown lines and spots*.

The

* The following are the principal dimensions of this fish:

	Feet Inches Lines		
Total length	3	0	0
of the apophyses of the ex-			
trermity of the upper jaw	0	0	2
	Distance		

The number of yellow spots, scattered over the body of this fish, indicated that it was a female. BE'LON has been the first to observe that the male had but very few spots, while the female was almost entirely covered with them†; and I had had an opportunity of verifying this observation, not only from the individual which I am describing, and which was a female, but also from the examination of several other fishes of this species, which I have seen in the seas of the LEVANT. This female had, in its inside, eggs elliptical and yellow; I also found, in its stomach, a rather large fish, half digested.

The stomach is very capacious; it is gray, and spotted at its orifice with blackish gray; the liver is long and of a red tinged with

	Feet	Inches	Lines
Distance from the tip of the rostrum to the angle of the jaws - - -	0	2	6
———— to the eyes - - -	0	10	0
———— to the anus - - -	1	4	3
———— to the dorsal fin - - -	0	4	6
———— from the eyes to the nostrils	0	0	3
Diameter of the eyes - - -	0	0	4
———— of the aperture of the gills	0	0	6
Height of the body - - -	0	2	9
Breadth of the upper jaw, measured before the eyes - - -	0	1	6

† *De Aquatilibus*, lib. i. cap. xii.

yellow;

yellow; the gall-bladder is oval, and attached to the bile-duct; the air-bladder is small, oval, and formed of a very thick membrane; its colour is yellow without, and white within.

The Greeks of the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO call this species of *muræna*, *smınaria*; they affirm that it couples with the land-serpent. In our countries, the same thing is said of the eel; but it is certain that the species of the *muræna* and of the eel being composed of males and females, they have no need to seek, on an element which is foreign to them, auxiliaries of that nature, and the individuals of both sexes couple, in the manner of snakes, by closely intertwining with each other.

The flesh of the *smınaria* of the modern Greeks is very white and delicate; but the quantity of short and crooked bones, with which it is filled, renders it troublesome to be eaten. I have been told that the fishermen have the knack of causing all these inconvenient bones to descend to the tail, by strongly squeezing the body of the fish between two small sticks, and of taking them off with the skin.

However, these fishes are very common along the coast of NATOLIA and in the AR-

CHIEPELAGO; they take up their abode in the holes of the rocks. In order to make them come out, the fishermen of the LEVANT make use of *athernos*, a species of very small fishes of which I shall have occasion to speak in the sequel; they chew these raw, and when they have made of them in their mouth a sort of paste, they throw them here and there into the sea, at the places where the edges of the rocks afford retreats to the *murænæ*, which, attracted by the smell of this deceitful food, soon come to the hook. This bait is likewise made use of, in the same countries, for taking conger-eels, which have several affinities of forms and habits to *murænæ*.

If the *muræna* or sea-serpent, whose natural history I have just given, is remarkable for the variety of its colours, the fish of which I am going to speak, and which I likewise found among the numerous produce caught by the boat that came alongside of us on our leaving the harbour of RHODES, is dazzling from the brightest and richest colours. It is the *fangri* of the modern Greeks (See Plate IV. fig. 2), a fish of the genus *sparus*, and which, holding the middle place between the sea-bream*, and the silvery-eyed, red spa-

* *Sparus pagrus*. LINN.

rus*, is sufficiently different from both to constitute a separate species, or at least a distinct race, which, according to every appearance, owes its origin to the difference of climate. Gold and purple glitter on its large scales; but, like the fleeting lustre of beauty, which the slightest derangement tarnishes or causes to vanish, this luxury of colours is effaced as soon as the fish is taken out of the element which preserves its life and its splendour; there then remains of it nothing but tints without brilliancy, vestiges which cease to flatter the eye; and if, in hopes of preserving these remains, already so faded, recourse be had to a method the most convenient, but at the same time the least calculated for giving an idea of the tints which distinguish fishes, by plunging the animal into a spirituous liquor, it quite changes colour, and becomes entirely livid.

The head of the fangri is short, high, and very solid; its form indicates great strength in this part, as its strong jaws, armed with sharp-edged teeth, are the sign of its great voracity. The rostrum is obtuse; the lips are thick, fleshy, and moveable; the mouth is small; on the forepart of each jaw are four

* *Sparus erythrinus*. LINN.

long, strong, hooked teeth, like the canine teeth of quadrupeds. These teeth stand apart from each other, and have behind them, both above and below, a number of small loose hooks, longer in the upper jaw than in the under one. At the end of these canine teeth, both jaws have, on each side, five other short teeth, broad at their base, and terminating in a point; immediately next to these, stands a double row of teeth, by no means prominent, but broad, in the shape of large tubercles, and which may very well be compared to the grinders of quadrupeds.

The apertures of the nostrils are double, and placed the one before the other, near the anterior part of the eye; that which is the nearest to the eye is oval, much larger, and more rounded than the other. The eyes are very large. The body is shortened; its sides are flattened; the back is convex, and rises very much, especially near the head; the belly is convex, and the extremity of the body little elevated, thick, and slightly rounded; the caudal fin is forked. A fin occupies the whole length of the back; it has twenty-three rays, twelve of which are prickly, and the fourth is the longest of all. The pectoral fins are very long, terminated in a point, and

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formed of fifteen rays; the pinna ani has eleven rays, the first three of which are bony, and the first is short and thick; lastly, the ventral fins, placed opposite the origin of the dorsal fin, have six rays, the first of which is prickly and terminated by a very fine point, and the second is the largest of all.

The lateral line, which is broad and strongly marked, begins above the aperture of the gills, follows the bend of the back, and terminates at the middle of the base of the caudal fin. The scales, which cover the whole body, as well as the sides and the under part of the head, are broad, large, thin, and very adherent to the flesh, from which it is difficult to detach them.

I have said that this fish is very rich in colours; in fact, its eyes are of a very brilliant brown yellow, with some shades or faint spots of white and orange colour; the top of its head is of a deep reddish brown; the sides of the head, beginning from beneath the eyes, as far as the angles of the jaws, are of a pretty cherry colour; at the anterior angle of the eyes is a large spot of shining gold; the operculæ of the gills are of a gray somewhat reddish, with brilliant reflections of silver and gold; the aperture of the gills is bordered with

with brown and gold colour; lastly, the upper part of the body is of a pale cherry colour, that grows still paler on the under part, which is likewise glistening with silver, each scale being of a silvery white, and having in its middle a large spot of a faint but bright red, which produces a very handsome effect.

The lateral line is of a gray, tinted with fawn colour, and changeable with silvery reflections. The under part of the head and the belly are white; the dorsal and pectoral fins are reddish; these latter have at their base a spot of iron gray; the pinna ani is of a pale cherry colour, with a white border at its upper part, and its last two rays are of a gold colour. The caudal fin is of a deep reddish colour, and terminated by a broad border of brick colour. On opening the mouth of this fish, it was remarked, that its inside, as well as its throat, are of a bright red†.

The

† The individual which served for this description had the following dimensions:

	Feet	Inches	Lines
Total length - - - - -	1	2	6
Length of the head - - - - -	0	3	10
— of the largest ray of the dorsal fin	0	1	7
Base of the same fin - - - - -	0	5	6

The difference of sex and age also produces some variation in the colours of the fangris. In proportion as they grow old, the tints become pale, and the brilliant reflections fade away. In the great number of these fishes which I observed in the LEVANT, I found one which had a very remarkable irregularity: it had, on the left side of the rostrum, a large black spot, and it had no trace of any on the right side. The skin of this individual was livid, the inside of the mouth and throat were whitish, very faintly tinged with red, all its colours were tarnished, and it appeared to me that it was either very old or sickly.

	Feet	Inches	Lines
Length of the pectoral fins - - -	0	3	11
—— of the ventral fins - - -	0	2	5
—— of the pinna ani - - -	0	1	0
—— of the points of the caudal fin -	0	2	10
The greatest height of the body, measured in a straight line from the origin of the dorsal fin to the ventral fin - - -			
	0	4	3
Height measured at the extremity of the body	0	1	1
Distance from the extremity of the rostrum to the eyes - - -			
	0	1	6
—— to the dorsal fin - - -	0	5	0
—— to the pectoral fin - - -	0	3	10
—— to the anus - - -	0	7	0

The

The fish which served as a subject for the description that I have just given, was a male; its intestines were filled with remnants of small crabs, and they were enveloped in a great deal of fat. I have seen others, in whose stomach and intestines were fragments of sea-urchins, and even some small urchins entire. The liver is very large, of a gray and reddish colour mixed, with the exception of its extremity, which is black. The air-bladder is a strong, thick membrane, placed in a horizontal situation; it contains the air between it and the ribs, and occupies half of the capacity of the abdomen. The tongue is thick, rather broad, but very short.

The *fangri* is a voracious and solitary fish. It dwells in the holes of the rocks: its flesh is very white, but hard and rather dry; it sometimes acquires a size somewhat considerable. I saw one which weighed fifty-five pounds, and I was assured that none larger had been taken in the seas of the LEVANT.

I was willing to try whether the property which WILLUGHBY discovered in the sea-bream, a species nearly allied to the *fangri*, of being luminous during the night*, would

* *Historia Piscium*, cap. iv. page 31.

likewise be met with in this latter fish; but, although I repeated this trial, I never perceived that the *fangri* emitted any light in the dark.

We had set sail from the harbour of RHODES, in company with three vessels; a Frenchman bound to STANCHO, a Venetian proceeding to the ADRIATIC SEA, and another Venetian, loaded at ALEXANDRIA for the account of the English merchants, and directing her course for LONDON. Our crew, who had learned at ALEXANDRIA the real destination and the nature of the cargo of this vessel, regretted exceedingly not being armed, in order that they might take possession of her. Such are the customs of war, which we have decorated with the empty title of laws, as if acts trespassing on property, and by which we strip individuals, strangers to the causes that arm governments the one against the other, ought not rather to be considered as plundering excursions than as regular acts.

After having doubled Cape SANT ANTONIO, the most northern of the Island of RHODES, and consequently the nearest to the continent, from which it is distant no more than three leagues, we found ourselves in the middle of the strait which is called the canal of RHODES,
and

and not the CARPATHIAN SEA, as some geographers have improperly asserted. This CARPATHIAN SEA, which derived its name from the Island of *CARPATOS*, at this day *SCARPANTO*, whose coasts it bathes, is, as well as the island itself, to the south-west of the Isle of RHODES, between the latter and the Island of CANDIA. We left behind us the small Island of ELEUSA, placed at the entrance of a gulf which now bears the name of *MARMORO* or *MARMARISSO*, on the coast of ASIA MINOR; it was likewise called *SEBASTUS*, and it is not half a league in circumference. Not far from this gulf was the mountain of PHŒNICE, on which a town of the same name had been built and fortified.

Cape VOLPE, anciently *CYNOSSEMA*, terminates, a little more to the west, this part of CARAMANIA, and forms the point of it the nearest to the Isle of RHODES. Under this cape is PORTO CAVALIERE, frequented by ships of war, which are not always in safety without the harbour of RHODES, where they cannot enter.

If the wind have ever so little strength, the sea is always very high in the strait formed by CARAMANIA and the Island of RHODES. The waves rise there sometimes in a frightful man-

ner; the currents which, in a sea intersected by islands and projecting lands, vary and clash, are the cause of this extraordinary agitation, which is likewise increased by inconstant and irregular winds. Indeed, it frequently happens that the wind is different in several parts of the same channel, and that, on one side, there reigns a flat calm, while, on the other, the winds blow with violence. Not only are the winds inconstant in these obstructed seas, but they are here felt by sudden and impetuous squalls, which are followed and preceded by dead calms; and these violent gusts are sometimes announced by infallible signs. Above the high mountains of which the coast of CARAMANIA is for the most part formed, it is not uncommon, in clear weather, to see a very small black cloud, frequently no bigger in appearance than a bird. This globe of vapours is extremely agitated; at first very small, it spreads all on a sudden, contracts, appears and disappears at intervals above the mountain, and changes its form every instant. How calm soever the atmosphere may be, — a sudden and violent squall may be expected, at the sight of these insulated clouds, which discharge the wind with so much rapidity and vehemence, that if a ship be not prepared for be-

ing overtaken by it, she runs a great risk of losing part of her sails, and even her masts and yards.

On the 28th of October, we experienced one of these sudden squalls, after a calm which had kept the ship stationary abreast of Cape Crio, a large promontory of CARAMANIA. During this calm, a numerous shoal of fishes, cleaving the water level with its surface, and even darting above it, passed close to us with great rapidity; and the agitation of these inhabitants of the depths of the sea, is always a certain presage of an approaching and violent agitation in the atmosphere and the waters. A small cloud, the precursor of the storm, had made its appearance above the promontory; it expanded, and we were overtaken by a gale of wind, which compelled us to take in all our sails, and continue lying to during the whole night, tossed about by short and overgrown billows.

On the 30th, in the morning, the wind lulled; but it was still contrary, and the tacks, which it forced us to make in a narrow channel, and in the middle of a very heavy sea, strained our little vessel extremely. We had passed beyond the small Island of SYMI, whose ancient name, SYME, has scarcely undergone any

any alteration, while its interior condition has greatly changed. It was formerly cultivated and fertile in grain; at this day, are hardly discovered any vestiges of its ancient culture. The Greeks who inhabit it apply themselves almost exclusively to the fishery of sponges, with which the rocks at the bottom of the sea that surrounds their island are covered: they are the boldest and most experienced divers in the world; they descend into the bottom of the sea, to the depth of twenty or thirty fathoms, that is, one hundred and fifty feet; there, they detach the sponges from the rocks to which these adhere, and then return to the surface of the water, in order to take breath for a few moments and dive again. Men, accustomed from their infancy to visit the abysses of the sea, to make of them the fertile fields of their principal harvest as of their sole labours, must naturally brave with intrepidity the rage of an element with which they have found means to make themselves familiar, and the depths of which they dread not to visit: and, indeed, the Symiots are very good navigators; for the intrepidity of a seaman is the most essential quality, as it is the most certain source of his skill. Those Greeks, with very small boats, cross the spaces of sea

5 which

which separate them from the coasts and from the other islands, and, with the produce of their fishery, they carry thither the activity of a small traffic, which is adequate to the wants and ambition of a nation of divers.

A laborious life, which requires the exertion of all the physical faculties, has made the Symiots a robust race of men, of a handsome stature. HOMER has extolled the beauty of the king of SYMI, NIREUS, son of the nymph AGLAÏA and of the king CHAROPUS. "He was," says he, "the handsomest of all the
" Greeks that went to TROY, if we except the
" divine ACHILLES, who was of an accom-
" plished beauty*."

The life of these islanders is simple; their nature and the constancy of their labours have kept their morals free from corruption;

* The following is POPE's elegant version of this passage.—*Translator.*

" Three ships with NIREUS fought the Trojan shore,
" NIREUS, whom AGLAÏA bore.
" NIREUS, in faultless shape and blooming grace,
" The loveliest youth of all the Grecian race;
" PELIDES only match'd his early charms;
" But few his troops, and small his strength in arms."

Iliad, book ii. v. 815.

and

and Tyranny, which so severely oppresses their neighbours, has spared, or, to speak more correctly, has disdained a tribe, which, in lieu of opulence, presents only austere habits and laborious occupations, the most certain pledges of independence.

Very near to the coast of Cape VOLPE, the Island of SYMI lies, at the entrance of a gulf which bears its name. Although by no means considerable, being scarcely two leagues in length by one in breadth, it has two good harbours, fit for the reception of large ships, without reckoning several little bays or coves, in which small craft may lie in shelter. The north harbour, barred by shoals, is the more spacious as well as the more commodious. The most northern of the shoals which protect its entrance, is named *SAN PAULO*, because it is opposite a place of that name, on the coast, at the very head of the gulf.

On the other side of SYMI, the gulf is formed by Cape CRIO, anciently *TRIOPIUM*, a promontory of DORIS, a province of CARIA, at the extremity of which was built the celebrated city of CNIDUS. Here VENUS was worshipped: here was seen the statue of that goddess, the most beautiful of the works of PRAXITELES. A temple, far from spacious,
and

and open on all sides, contained it, without concealing it from view; and, in whatever point of view it was examined, it excited equal admiration. No drapery veiled its charms; and it was of such uncommon beauty, that it inflamed with a violent passion another PYGMALION, who, in the dark, endeavoured to animate a cold and insensible representation of a most fascinating woman, and there left traces of a mad profanation*. The most advantageous offers could not prevail on the Cnidians to part with this master-piece; and PLINY, who relates the fact, praises them for a noble refusal, the object of which immortalized their city, as well as their passion for the fine arts. And this passion of generous souls shone on all sides in the city of CNIDUS: here were seen other statues, which, without having the perfection and the seducing graces of the VENUS of PRAXITELES, contributed no less to the public glory and prosperity, by the crowd of strangers who came to admire them. Heaps of ruins at this day occupy the place of one of the most splendid cities of an-

* *Ferunt amore captum quemdam, cum delitisset noctu, simulachro co hæsisse, ejusque cupiditatis esse indicem maculam.—*

PLIN. Hist. Nat. lib. xxxvi. cap. v.

cient GREECE, and the hand which rules over these remains prohibits all approach to them, and does not even allow of digging among them, in order to discover fragments of its ancient splendour.

Independently of a taste for the arts, the Cnidians had also a genius for great enterprises. They had resolved to cut through the base of the large promontory which formed their domain, and to convert their peninsula into an island. Their small craft would have avoided the long circuit of Cape *TRIOPIUM*, as well as the dangers of the tempestuous sea which breaks on it; and their country, more insulated, would have been less exposed to attacks and surprises from the enemy. But an oracle suspended labours which were to turn to the safety and prosperity of the state. It was found that the meaning of the two hexameter verses pronounced by the *PYTHIA* at *DELPHI*, signified that the inhabitants of *CNIDUS* were to leave their isthmus such as it was; because, if *JUPITER* had willed it to be an island, he would have saved them the trouble of making it so: an absurd answer, calculated only to divert from the execution of grand projects, and worthy of personages, who, on mysterious tripods, and in an obscure language,

language, boasted of being the interpreters of the gods.

The shores of CNIDUS furnish, as in former times, a very large quantity of fishes*. Experience has taught the fishermen of these seas, as well as those of the ARCHIPELAGO, that fishes which generally keep in the offing, approach the land during rains and storms, and that then they may easily be taken even from the sea-shore; whereas, in fine weather, there remain in the rocks of the coast none but solitary fishes, and those of the small species, such as the *turdus labrus*, the *turdus julus*, and the *perca cabrilla*.

The wines of CNIDUS were anciently very famous. THEOPHRASTUS speaks of Cnidian onions as of a particular species†. They were very mild, and did not occasion tears. It is, indeed, certain that, generally speaking, this plant loves heat, and that its bulbs are less acrid in warm countries than in cold or temperate climates. In EGYPT, onions do not bite the tongue in a disagreeable manner; neither do they excite tears when they are

* OVID called CNIDUS the city abounding with fish:
Piscosamque Cnidon.

† Lib. vii. cap. iv,

cut: dressed or raw, they constitute the most ordinary food in that country.

I doubt not that the excessive use which is made in EGYPT of this species of legumes increases the disposition to the disorders of the eyes and of the skin; but certainly it communicates not to the men any bad smell, as has been asserted, in endeavouring to explain the stench of the Jews who live among us, from the great quantity of leeks which they employ in their aliments†. If this explanation were well founded, no people on earth would exhale a stronger or more disagreeable smell than the Egyptians, who not only eat a great many leeks, but make a prodigious consumption of onions.

It is very natural to imagine that the onions of CNIDUS had also a flavour less acrid than those of the north and the west, that is, of the less warm regions of GREECE.

It is the same with garlic, which has likewise less pungency and sharpness, in a soil heated by a burning sun. The inhabitants of our southern provinces may have experienced this, if they have attempted to eat at PARIS the same preparations of garlic as in their

† Fr. Philephi epistol.

country; it is there almost impossible to bear the extreme sharpness of dishes of this sort, which are nevertheless so common in the south of FRANCE.

A clear sky, a tranquil atmosphere, a sea whose surface was gently ruffled by light waves, had, towards the close of the day of the 30th, succeeded to the turbulent and dangerous agitation of the elements. But the faint breeze, which scarcely filled our sails, still blew from a point contrary to our route, and forced us to ply to windward in order to make any progress. With the exception of this obstacle, our voyage was in every respect pleasant. The stretches which we made could not extend far in a channel confined by lands on all sides. Sometimes we approached the lofty coasts of ASIA MINOR; and the aspect of the high mountains covered with ancient forests, cultivated plains, habitations to which the distance gave a cheerful appearance, the diversity of the sites and prospects which every moment changed, drew my attention, and occupied me agreeably; sometimes a multitude of islands and shoals were within our reach, and displayed to my eyes the dress of their plains and of their hills, or the naked-

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ness of their rocks. Ahead and astern of us, other lands, which the progress of our vessel caused to appear moveable and wandering, limited the view. Approximated to each other, they seemed to unite in the distance, and enclose us in a vast basin, which left no opening to our passage. A flock of cranes, directing their course to the south, that is, towards EGYPT, passed over our heads; they flew at so great a height, that, although the sky was very clear, we scarcely perceived them; but they made the air resound with their cries: these birds pass, from one country to another, only in fine weather.

The next day, I saw a numerous flight of ducks, repairing, like the cranes, to the rich and humid plains of LOWER EGYPT.

A boisterous and still contrary wind arose on the 1st of November. A polypus leaped on board the ship with so much violence, that in striking me on the thigh, on the quarter-deck, where I was seated, it made the same impression on me as a bullet thrown with force; it was a calamary or cuttle-fish*. The Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO call it *calamari*,

* *Sepia loligo*. LINN. *Verm mollusc. Gen. 296, spec. 4.*

the Provençals *totène*, and the French seamen of the western ocean, *encornet*, because its rounded form, elongated and terminating in a point, is nearly that of a horn, and contains, in its inside, a black liquor like ink.

The head of this soft and very singular animal terminated, on the top and on each side, by three tentacula or fleshy feet, having, along their inner side, small cartilaginous tubercles, hollow, twisted spirally, and which, from their construction, perform the office of clasps. The outermost of these three tentacula is broader and thicker than the second, and the latter more so than the third. The under part of the head is furnished with two large tentacula similar to the three of the upper, and covering the origin of two large antennæ of a softer substance, but of an equal size to their very end, which has the form of a mace bending inwards like a hand, of which the animal makes use for seizing its prey and carrying it to its mouth. The little tubercles, of the same nature, with which the inner side of the feet are furnished, serve it, probably, for the same use, and perhaps also to hold itself close in copulation; for it is well known that these polypi couple by intertwining their sort of arms,

arms, and in the middle of the sea; so that they require to be strongly held the one against the other, on account of the agitation of the waters.

Between all these tentacula is seen a round aperture, the raised margins of which represent tolerably well the top of a pomegranate, or of the fruit of the wild rose-tree. The head, compressed above and below, is as broad as it is long; the eyes are very large and oblong; the neck is, as it were, enchased in a cartilaginous sheath, covered at top by a bone by no means solid, flattened, and cased with a skin: even with this bone is, on each side, a cartilaginous membrane or fin, elevated in its middle, and one of the extremities of which terminates with the body, and the other, at about two-thirds of its length. The upper part of the sheath, at the setting on of the neck, forms a point above, and a slope below. It has a species of beak very hard, and perfectly similar to that of a parrot. The Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO give to this beak the name of *karidi*, which means a wall-nut.

This calamary was red above, and white, speckled with a bright red, below. Its principal

cipal dimensions will be found in the sub-joined note*.

The body of the calamary is very slippery, and difficult to be held in the hand. The younger it is, the softer is its substance; but it acquires consistency in proportion as the animal increases in size.

The navigators of the ocean assert that the calamary becomes one of the largest animals of that sea; which would not be easy to believe, if it be true, as BE'LON† says, that this polypus lives little more than two years. It is considered as a presage of a tempest, when the calamaries dart out of the water. The same day that one came on board of our ship, I saw, in the afternoon, a considerable shoal

Feet. Inches. Lines.

* Total length, from the end of the antennæ to the extremity of the body	1	1	6
Length of the outermost of the upper tentacula or feet	0	2	8
— of the under tentacula or feet	0	0	3
— of the antennæ	0	8	0
— of the sheath or body	0	5	6
Height of the fins in their middle	0	1	5
Length of the eyes	0	0	8½
Their breadth	0	0	6½

† *De Aquatil.* lib. ii. cap. ii.

of them; they rose rather high above the surface of the sea, in the manner of flying-fishes, and carried with them a portion of water, which, in falling again, formed a long string, similar to a detached tail, which united them for some time to the sea, and which, variously coloured by the refraction of the sun's rays, produced a very agreeable sight, owing to the tints with which, in broad day, the humid bodies of the calamaries themselves glitter.

On the shores of the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, calamaries are caught with hook and line; and it is principally during the winter that most are taken. Their cartilaginous flesh is rather bad eating, and appeared to me difficult of digestion; it is nevertheless a dish much in vogue among the Greeks. The best manner of dressing it, is to fill the inside of the polypus with minced meat; but however good may be the stuffing, it scarcely renders the flesh of this animal more delicate.

We must distinguish a species or a variety of calamary, also common in the seas of the LEVANT, which the present Greeks call *trap-falo*, and the Provençals *arugi*. This polypus bears much resemblance to that which I have just described. It differs from it, nevertheless, by its eyes being of an extraordinary size,

size, its fins of less extent, its feet having a greater number of small bony points to their cartilaginous tubercles, the back-bone less length, and the sheath a smaller quantity of black liquor; lastly, by its becoming very large. The Greeks, struck by these traits of conformity, affirm that their *trapsalo* is only the calamary changed by age; however, I have some difficulty in being persuaded that differences so marked as those which I have indicated are but simple effects of the diversity of age. These disparities in the forms are also to be found in the habits; the arugi approaches the coast more frequently than the calamary; it often comes on the sand of the shore, and there deposits its eggs, whereas the calamary never goes on land. These arugis, from their habit of frequenting the land, are oftener taken than calamaries, properly so called. Their flesh too appeared to me better, and less difficult of digestion; but their eggs have a slight purgative property, from which no bad effects are felt.

I have been assured that the little polypi which were sometimes met with in the open sea, and in large bodies, were of this latter species. In 1774, I found in the stomach of a shark which we caught in the ocean, be-

tween the tropics and near the west coast of AFRICA, one of these polypi, which was scarcely six inches long, and the substance of which was almost as soft as mucilage. This extreme softness was partly owing to the tender age of the animal, as well as to the commencement of digestion which it had experienced in the stomach of the shark. The drawing which I caused to be taken of it, and which I give here (*Plate IV. fig. 3.*) represents it of the natural size.

By dint of struggling against the wind, which as well as the sea began to rise, we reached the Island of STANCHO, and we there cast anchor at day-break, on the 2d of November. But before I speak of that island, it is expedient to measure back my way, and make mention of several other islands which are situated to the right, that is, to the south of the route which we had just followed.

CHAPTER X.

A philosophical view of the Islands of the Mediterranean.—Scarpanto.—Casso.—Cassian Islands.—Limonia.—Narki.—Piscopia.—Nisari.—Madona.

WHEN we direct our view over that immense number of broad elevated lawns, of summits of mountains, of points of rocks, placed without order and very near to each other, with which the MEDITERRANEAN is covered on the east, we cannot avoid thinking that this extent of sea, thickly strewn with a multitude of lands, has formed a continent in times the most remote, and that a sudden irruption of the waters of the BLACK SEA, earthquakes, and the violent action of volcanoes, have inundated that ancient country of GREECE, and torn it into innumerable shreds. Vast and deep chasms have swallowed up a considerable portion of that country, and there

has

has remained of it only peaks of mountains, furrowed by cavities and fissures, in which the confusion of the substances attests that they have been overthrown.

Each of these islands, the remains of an ancient land, violently shaken, and for the most part ingulfed by one of those great catastrophes of Nature, the traces of which are so strongly imprinted on the surface of the globe, has near it islets, rocks emerging from the waters, or concealed beneath them, ledges, shoals, fragments of its ancient junction with a neighbouring island, or with the continent: it is still easy for the observer to follow some of the lines which connected these lands with each other, and to convince himself that they all formed but one uninterrupted country.—Who knows even whether it be not in this part of the MEDITERRANEAN, rather than in the ocean, that we must look for the site of the famous ATLANTIS of PLATO? That celebrated philosopher of antiquity has said, in express terms, that it was to the south of ATTICA, which justifies the well-founded presumption that it was situated towards the coast of LIBYA.

Every thing then in the universe is con-
signed to destruction; all created beings ex-

perience various modifications and perish; the Creator alone is immutable and eternal. When substances the most hard and most solid, and which seemed to brave the attacks of time, melt or are pulverized in the fire of volcanoes, and are dissolved by the action of the air and the waters; when the face of the globe changes, either by the sudden effect of subterraneous convulsions, or of great inundations, or by causes more slow, but not less active, man, in the course of his ephemeral existence, disputes with man the ruins of this earth, abandoned to powerful and continual agents of destruction; instead of employing himself unremittingly in cultivating and embellishing the places where he is fixed. Yielding to the rage of ambition, he forsakes pleasing occupations, useful labours; and, arming himself with all the resources that the genius of devastation can engender, he covers with ruins and havock an abode already exposed to the ravages of ages, and which he is to inhabit only during so small a number of years. At the call of an ambitious or wicked man, the human race become seized with the fury of battle; they threaten, clash, and tear each other to pieces; nations devote themselves to hatred and to death; whole generations rush
into

into carnage, and are drowned in blood; while piles of carcasses form a mass of horror and corruption, which rage, incessantly reviving, will not fail to increase.

I have already said that the little Island of SANTA CATHERINA appeared to have been detached from the south point of the Isle of RHODES; it is a remnant of the land which joined it to another country, in like manner insulated, and which bears the name of the Island of SCARPANTO; the latter was anciently called *CARPATHOS* or *CARPATHUS*, and gave its name to the *CARPATHIAN SEA*, that is, to that small extent of sea which lies between the Islands of RHODES and CANDIA, and of which poets have frequently made mention. Not so large as the Isle of RHODES, it is of the same form, or nearly so, being considerably longer than it is broad; it is little more than from seven to eight leagues in length, by about three in breadth. STRABO has also designated it under the denomination of *TETRAPOLIS*, because it contained four cities; other historians reckon seven; at this day there are no longer any. Some very good harbours afford secure shelter to ships surprised by a storm, or buffeted by contrary winds, in a sea which leaves but little open space to be traversed.

traversed. I did not visit this island, in which poets feigned that *PALLAS* was born and passed her infancy; nor did I find any opportunity of conversing about it with persons who had visited it: I only know that it has high mountains, rich in minerals, which the islanders dare not touch, richer still at their surface, from the luxuriant pastures which there grow; that its soil is fertile; that game is in plenty, and that its coasts abound with fish; and that lastly, and this is not one of its least advantages, no Turk makes it his residence. I shall add, that the situation of *SCARPANTO*, between two large islands, and on the track of ships bound to *CYPRUS*, *SYRIA*, and *EGYPT*, may become the emporium of a great trade, as its harbours and its fertility would render it a very convenient place for anchoring and procuring supplies.

Between Cape *PORNISA*, the most southern of that island, and Cape *SIDERA*, the most eastern of the Island of *CANDIA*, but nearer to the former than to the latter, is another point of connection between the two; the small Island of *CASSO*, the ancient *CASOS*, or *CASUS*, a name which the Italians, and after them the Provençal navigators, have metamorphosed into that, more indecent, of *CAZZO*.

A town,

A town, which was also called *CASUS*, from the name of the father of *CLEOMACHUS*, who conducted inhabitants thither, had been built anciently in this island: it no longer exists; and the population of the island, entirely composed of Greeks, is not considerable.

This island, which is only three leagues in circumference, is little frequented by shipping, its road being difficult of entrance, and its shore dangerous of access; the inhabitants, on that account, are but the more happy and more free: the Turks seldom venture to go thither to exercise the despotism with which they overwhelm the countries subject to their empire. And, indeed, those Greeks of *CASSO*, more independent and more secure in their property, are more laborious than elsewhere; their toil and industry have introduced fertility on a soil of which the stratum even of vegetable earth, which covers the rocks, appeared not to render it susceptible; the vines which grow on this stony ground, furnish them with very good wine; and the honey which they gather is still, as in ancient times, abundant, and of an excellent quality. The *Cassioti*, like all the inhabitants of the small islands which cannot supply the wants of their population, are navigators and traders; but their

their industry in that line does not extend beyond the limits of the ARCHIPELAGO.

Several islets or shoals lie near the northern coast of the Island of CASSO; the ancients called them the CASSIAN Islands, or Islands of the Cassians; they are barren, and scarcely covered with a few bushes; they shelter the road of CASSO from the winds and the sea to the north.

To the west of SCARPANTO, other arid and uninhabited islets rise above the sea: navigators alone have an interest in knowing their position; and the chart, annexed to this work, indicates it with exactness.

The first island which we had left on our right, on quitting the Isle of RHODES, is that of LIMONIA. It is by no means extensive, and its length greatly exceeds its breadth. Its eastern coast presents a small haven, defended by a shoal, and on the margin of which stands the only village in the island.

At some distance from LIMONIA is NARKI or KARKI, a small island, which neither has more extent nor importance; it anciently bore the name of CHALCIA or CHALCIS, and the extreme fertility of one of its districts was much extolled. In 1658, the Venetians sacked it most completely, in order to punish the inhabitants

bitants for having taken up arms against them; and, since that disastrous period, the fatal abuse of power and injustice, population has been scanty, and culture in a languishing condition. Several shoals, rising above the waters, are the indications of the ancient junction of the lands of LIMONIA and NARKI.

Further on, towards the north-west, and nearly in the middle of the distance which separates the Isle of RHODES from that of STANCHO, is the Island of *PISCOPIA*, a little larger than the Islands of LIMONIA and NARKI, which I have just mentioned. It has a tolerably good harbour and several anchorages, very useful to ships which frequent these seas. The ancients called it *TELOS*, and they highly esteemed the perfumes which were there prepared. This branch of trade is lost; but it is a proof of the goodness of the soil of *PISCOPIA*, and of the mildness of its climate; circumstances the most favourable to the expansion of the sweet odour of plants and flowers.

The Island of NISARI, anciently *NISYROS*, comes next, facing Cape CRIO, from which it is distant only three leagues. It is a land separated from the Island of STANCHO; the poets had preserved the memory of this event
by

by a fable, which, like almost all those of antiquity, was founded on facts historical and real. They therefore related that NEPTUNE, being in pursuit of a giant, detached a piece of the Island of Cos in order to overwhelm him, and that this piece, under which the giant was crushed, is become the Island of NISARI; a temple had there been erected to NEPTUNE, in order to perpetuate the remembrance of its formation. Under this allegory, it is not difficult to discover that the effort of NEPTUNE to conquer the resistance of the giant, is nothing more than the violence of an irruption of the waters, which, bursting through every obstacle, worked themselves a passage across the lands of Cos or of STANCHO, as they have opened some on a multitude of points in the same seas. NISARI is an island of little extent, elevated, and stony; warm waters and other vestiges of volcanoes are there to be met with; grind-stones are very common, and it produces in abundance several sorts of commodities; but it wants a harbour where vessels can cast anchor in safety.

Between the Island of NISARI and that of STAMPOLI, there are islets and rocks, of which an inspection of the chart will convey all the knowledge that it is necessary to obtain.

Among these shoals is to be seen a very remarkable one; the Europeans call it *MADONA* or *Our Lady*, and the Greeks, *PANAGIA*, a word which has the same signification. It is the point of a very high mountain, and the highest, perhaps, of all the portion of the continent of GREECE swallowed up in the waters. What appears of it still is very elevated above the sea, and presents only an enormous block of rock, naked, steep, and almost inaccessible. However, some Greek monks, devoting themselves to absolute retirement, and availing themselves of the fissures which ancient convulsions, or the injuries of the air, have scattered over this rock, have ventured to climb up it, and construct on its summit a little chapel, dedicated to the Virgin, and a habitation, or rather a grotto, consecrated to an austere solitude and the contemplations of ascetic life. What an abode for the man, who, free from all passion, can live independent and secure from the shock of the passions of his fellow-creatures! Commanding a very extensive view, his eye reaches over a part of the ARCHIPELAGO and of GREECE; in the midst of countries, whose population is numerous and agitated, his tranquillity is as complete as if he did not inhabit the

the earth; devoid of ambition, a boat suffices to procure him the necessary articles of life: ships conveying riches frequently acquired at the expense of honour, and stained with human blood, sail around him, conducted by men, who, on more than one occasion, have envied his fate; calm amid the most frightful tempests, he beholds the impetuous and noisy waves break at his feet; while he is above the reach of the still more terrible storms of cupidity and ambition.

CHAPTER XI.

Stanco.—*Ancient Cos.—Town of Stancho.*
 —*Its gardens, its harbour.—Agent of the*
consulate.—Plague.—Island of Stancho.—
Its population, its climate, its productions.—
Silk-worms.—Plane-tree.

NO one is ignorant that the Island of STAN-
 CHO or STANCHIO, of the European navigators,
 is that which the Greeks called and still call
 the Isle of Cos. According to the remark of
 CHOISEUL-GOUFFIER*, this denomination
 of STANCHO or STANCHIO, arises from the man-
 ner in which navigators, too apt to disfigure
 every name, understand the words which the
 Greeks employ for saying that they are going
 to Cos, *eis ten Kos*, and which, pronounced
 rapidly, make STINCO: but it is through a
 mistake, the origin of which I am unable to
 discover, that the most esteemed geographers

* *Voyage Pittoresque de la Grèce*, chapter vi.

say that the same island also bears the name of *LANGO*.

Every one knows too that at Cos, 460 years before the christian era, HIPPOCRATES, the lawgiver of physic, was born: his theory, founded entirely on observation and experience, has outlived ages: and the aphorisms which it contains are still, after thousands of years, the safest rule for the conduct and the duties of all those who wish to consecrate, with success, their days to the relief of mankind. The god of medicine was revered in the same spot which gave birth to the first of physicians. The temple of *ÆSCULAPIUS* occupied a part of the suburb of the city of Cos; it contained the most valuable offerings, a tribute of the gratitude of the sick who had obtained their cure; and inscriptions indicated the disorders by which they had been afflicted, and the remedies which had relieved them†. This custom, at the same time religious and civil, was well calculated to excite emulation among those who made a profession of the art of healing, and to keep at a distance ignorance and empirism.

† *Voyage du Jeune Anarcharsis*, chap. xliv. according to STRABO, book viii and xiv.

Cos was likewise the country of APELLES, the most celebrated painter of antiquity, to whom alone it was permitted to paint ALEXANDER, the greatest hero of his time, if however heroism can consist in the exercise of the most terrible power, which nature and humanity reject with horror, that of disturbing, of tormenting nations, and slaughtering mankind. Posterity, less fortunate with respect to the painter, has not collected his works; we know them only by the tradition of the most brilliant renown, while the books of the father of medicine, more useful and more durable, have been handed to us, as the best school in which we can learn to ward off from our frail and transitory existence the ills by which it is threatened and oppressed.

Other men, illustrious in the arts and sciences, owe their birth to Cos. My object, as I have announced, not being to retrace the ancient history of the countries which I have visited, a history repeated in so many books, and known to all those who have received a liberal education; and the little I say of it being intended only to approximate, or rather to contrast the flourishing situation of these places in ancient times, with the state of decay, and of wretchedness almost general,

ral, in which we see them in our days, I have made mention of the greatest men of whom Cos was the cradle and the abode, only for the purpose of recalling to mind how celebrated and flourishing that city must have been, from the concurrence of the sciences and arts which there shone in all their lustre. Cos was, in fact, magnificent in its interior, as well as very agreeable from its position; its harbour was also one of the finest and most frequented in these seas.

It is almost needless to mention that there no longer exist any traces of the ancient city; the temple of *ÆSCULAPIUS*, the sacred wood by which it was surrounded, the other monuments have there been effaced, as well as the memory of the celebrated men who constituted its glory. Such is the fate of all the cities, of all the edifices, of all the countries abandoned to the devastation of the Turks, a warlike and barbarous nation: like the birds of night, whose eyes are hurt and cries excited by the rays of the sun, the lustre of the fine arts dazzle them, and the sciences are to them no more than an object of contempt. Such is generally the deplorable lot of every country governed by the force of arms, and in which the sword gives the law.

The modern town of STANCHO is small; its buildings have nothing remarkable; but its situation on the sea-shore is the same as that of the ancient city, and its environs are still very agreeable. It is surrounded by orchards of lemon and orange trees; their flowers, which the warmth of the climate multiplies and perfumes, there diffuse delightful emanations, and their succulent fruits are in sufficiently great abundance for affording, at a very low price, to its inhabitants a salutary and pleasant refreshment, and for becoming an article of their commerce. Cargoes of oranges and lemons are there shipped, and conveyed to different parts of TURKEY, but principally to SMYRNA and CONSTANTINOPLE.

The harbour, which is defended by a castle, kept in bad order, though formerly safe and deep, can no longer receive any but small vessels; large ships remain without, in a road where there is good holding ground, but which they, nevertheless, avoid during the winter, because it is open to the winds and the swell from the north and west. Scarcely had we cast anchor there, than a messenger from the French consul, who resided in the island, came to apprise us that the captain of
a Pro-

a Provençal merchant-vessel, who had brought to STANCHO some Turkish passengers from CONSTANTINOPLE, had just expired of the plague. Although we were in want of some provisions, our determination was soon taken, and we resolved to endure a few privations, and to quit very speedily a shelter which the contrariety and the violence of the winds had rendered necessary to us, rather than expose ourselves to the most dreadful of contagions.

However, as we were to wait till the night had lulled the wind, and caused a land-breeze to spring up, I could not determine to remain so near an island, which I was no longer to have an opportunity of visiting, without landing. I promised my companions, who were not well pleased to see me go on shore, to take every precaution which could insure them that I would not render them victims of what they called an imprudence. The ship's boat landed me alone on the beach; and, for fear of any communication, she returned on board very quickly. I repaired to the house of M. MASSE, who, for twenty-six years, had exercised, at STANCHO, the functions of agent to the general consulate of SMYRNA. I was received with the frank and cordial

cordial civility of an honest man, proud of long services which remained unrewarded.

"I am by no means astonished," said he to me, "that a man, whose courage has led him to undertake difficult travels, who has braved the ferocity of the inhabitants of EGYPT and the robberies of the Arabs, should not have been intimidated at the notice of the plague. You are in the right to banish the fear of that disorder; this is the first of preservatives. The imagination affected, the mind depressed with fear, are dispositions which seem to bring on the disease, instead of warding it off. The plague, according to every appearance, is on the point of being propagated in this island; the indifference of the Turks respecting every precaution which might avert this scourge, or arrest its progress, will leave an open field to the development of the fatal influences of the contagion, the first symptoms of which have already made their appearance; and this year it will make great ravages."

I begged the agent to explain to me on what he grounded his fatal prognostic. He answered, by communicating to me a remark, which his long residence in TURKEY had

enabled him to verify, and which, by establishing a singular affinity between two epidemical diseases, might contribute to a more certain knowledge of their nature. M. MASSE then first informed me, that the plague never broke out at STANCHO but in the month of January, and afterwards observation had ascertained that, in the years when the contagion was likely to be violent, it was preceded by a general small-pox, which carried off a great many children. On my arrival, the small-pox was making ravages; and this circumstance left, in the mind of M. MASSE, no doubt respecting the more terrible havock with which the plague would desolate the island, if, in the course of two months, it there developed the germs which had just been brought thither.

This observation appeared to me new and important; it may throw a great light on a disease which is scarcely known but by its cruel and rapid effects, and serve as a clue to the curative means which are yet to be sought. How many observations of that kind might not be collected! But it requires time and patience. The example of HIPPOCRATES, the greatest observer of his age and of those which have followed, has not many imitators:

imitators: we are fonder of writing than observing. Every one, now-a-days, is eager to enjoy some reputation, by hastening to shew himself in open day, and does not trouble himself whether the enjoyments of others answer to that premature desire of getting himself talked of; young people, scarcely emerged from school, assume a magisterial tone, and are not aware of the facility with which a school-boy becomes a pedant; others establish theories before they have acquired experience; the sciences and letters cannot be enriched by this cloud of productions which afford no information, except the advantageous opinion which their authors have conceived of them; and had we not still remaining a few great masters, the honour of the sciences and of our literature, we should regret that we are not born in a time when the temple of *ÆSCULAPIUS* and observing genius furnished to a philosopher, the friend and comforter of mankind, the materials of the immortal lessons which he has written in a manner at once simple, natural, and sublime.

The population of the town of *STANCHO* is, in a very great measure, composed of Turks: the Greeks form that of the rest of the island; but it is not very numerous.

Here

Here, there is no place of any consequence but the capital itself. The island, which is much longer than it is broad, is, indeed, of no great extent; but the beauty of its climate and of its soil, its fecundity, and its natural allurements would render the smallness of the number of its inhabitants an extraordinary circumstance, did we not recollect that this charming country is under the immediate command of the Turks, who, occupying the town, are enabled to exercise with greater violence the tyrannic sway, by which plains the most populous and most productive may become desert and uncultivated. PORCACHI has asserted that the air of STANCHO was unhealthy and subject to several impressions of malignancy, which there produce various contagious diseases*. DAPPER has copied PORCACHI†; geographers have copied DAPPER, and, in our days, their books repeat that STANCHO is an island dangerous to be inhabited. But this assertion is ill-founded; voyagers the most modern and best informed, among whom I shall content myself with quoting M. DE CHOISSEUL-

* *Description des îles de l'Archipel.*

† *Description exacte des îles de l'Archipel.*

GOUFFIER†, have taken good care not to repeat it; and M. MASSE, who, as I have before said, had resided at STANCHO for twenty-six years, assured me that he had there seen no other epidemical diseases than the small-pox, the ravages of which are common in several other countries, and the plague, which is brought thither from foreign parts.

And when we pay attention to the situation and the nature of this country, it would be difficult to discover there the causes of so great an insalubrity of which the ancients have not spoken; while they have highly extolled the charms of the Isle of Cos. Here no stagnant water spreads noxious exhalations; here the earth is not impregnated with hurtful substances; high mountains prevent not the circulation of the air; the atmosphere is not humid; the rains are not continual, and, for the most part, the sky is clear and serene; the fertility of the soil is rich and brilliant; and it is rare and very difficult, in the midst of this prodigality of

† "This island has nothing that distinguishes it at present; the beauty of the climate, the fertility of the soil, and the abundance of the fruits, are properties common to these countries." *Voyage Pittoresque de la Grèce*, vol. i. page 105.

the favours of Nature, for germs of corruption and death to spread and continue.

Some very high mountains command the south part of the island. Navigators, anxious to shelter themselves from the impetuous northerly winds, find, in that quarter, a propitious retreat in the little harbour of *SAFODINO*. The remainder of the island is a beautiful plain, of admirable fecundity, the treasures of which, in a great measure neglected, wait for happy changes in order to display all their magnificence. Fruits, such as oranges, lemons, whose trees form groves where the golden apple waves on all sides in the midst of a thick and perfumed foliage; figs, grapes, &c. are there delicious. The wine which is drawn from these last is delicate and agreeable: M. MASSE made me taste some which was not inferior to the most exquisite wines of GREECE. The variety of flowers and fruits, with which the gardens are embellished, flatters the smell more agreeably than all the perfumes of ARABIA; in short, if a wise and happy liberty could be revived on a land which claims it, the country of HIPPOCRATES and APELLES would still be an enchanting abode.

Excellent pastures formerly fed numerous flocks, that furnished wool with which the inhabitants

habitants manufactured stuffs, much esteemed, both for their fineness and the brilliant colours with which they were dyed. This kind of industry is lost, with a part of the riches that constituted the splendour of the island; and fleeces less taken care of, as well as less common, are no longer wrought either with the same art or the same delicacy.

Previously to the last century, commerce drew, from the Isle of STANCHO, a tolerably good quantity of silk; but, for several years past, none is there to be found. The climate is, nevertheless, very favourable to the culture of mulberry-trees, and to the worm which feeds on them. ARISTOTLE attributes the invention of winding into skains the cods of the silk-worm and of making stuffs of them to PAMPHILA, daughter of LATOÛS, an inhabitant of the Isle of Cos*; and PLINY, who gives the same account, adds with a tone of irony and indignation, that indeed this girl ought not to be deprived of the honour which she has acquired in finding means of dressing women as if they were naked†. What PLINY says afterwards of silk-worms,

* Hist. Animal. lib. v. cap. xix.

† Hist. Nat. lib. ii. cap. xxii.

which, in the Isle of Cos, are reported to be produced from the blossoms of the ash, the oak, and the cypress*, is very surprising, and would give room to presume, with some learned commentators, that the insect of which ARISTOTLE and PLINY have spoken, the former under the name of *bombylios*, and the latter under that of *bombix*, is not the same as our silk-worm, if we were acquainted with any other to which we could apply what they have said of it; if, besides, we did know, from modern accounts, that silk-worms feed in CHINA, not only on the ash, but also on the oak, and even on the cypress, and the turpentine-tree†: Are there several species of the silk-worm, or insects yielding a silk similar to that of these worms? Are we ignorant of the resources which Nature has diffused in different countries, according to the differences of the soil and climate, for the nourishment of silk-worms? What knowledge natural history and rural economy have still to acquire!

* Hist. Nat. lib. ii. cap. xxiii.

† See the second edition of the *Travels into the Interior of China*, by Lord MACARTNEY, translated by Castéra, vol. v. page 291.—Note of the French translator.

I passed the whole day in visiting the environs of the town, and walking in the rich and delightful groves by which it is surrounded. The obliging M. MASSE chose to accompany me; and his information, the fruit of a long residence in the LEVANT, rendered his conversation a source of instruction and entertainment. In crossing the town, in order to proceed to the sea-shore, I saw the famous plane-tree*, which covers the little public square with its antique and twisting branches, and cools it with its impervious shade. Pillars, or rather fragments of pillars of marble and granite, have been erected by the inhabitants in order to support some thick branches, which, being too far distant from the trunk, and loaded with boughs and leaves, would break and sink down through their own weight. These pillars are, according to what M. MASSE told me, the only remains of ancient monuments which are to be met with in the whole Island of STANCHO, if we except a few medals of little value.

A fountain has been built under the shade of the plane-tree: it supplies the wants of the

* *Platanus Orientalis*.—LINN.

Turks, great consumers of water; and they find, in a coffee-house established under the same foliage, the warm beverage made from the berry of the shrub of ARABIA, and which serves them in lieu of wine and every other fermented liquor. The Turks, to whom cool places are a want and a delight, assemble under the prodigious plane-tree of STANCHO; every one of them feels a pleasure in taking care of it, and they have, for this tree, a sort of religious respect, which is shared by the families of birds that dwell and nestle on its branches.

It would not be an inquiry altogether useless or indifferent to vegetable physiology to make known the age of a tree so enormous; but information, very easy to obtain in EUROPE, is impossible to be collected in TURKEY, where indifference respecting the most memorable events, the want of registers and written memoirs leave in oblivion facts which appear only matters of mere curiosity. The wood of the plane-tree is as hard as that of the oak; the tree is, consequently, very slow in acquiring its growth; and if we pay attention to the truly astonishing thickness and extent of the plane-tree of STANCHO, we shall believe, without difficulty, that upwards

of ten centuries have elapsed, since the period of its being planted.

The night was shut in, when I repaired to the ship, satisfied with my little excursion, and with not having been deterred from landing by the dread of the plague. I dispelled the alarms of the crew by the detail of the precautions which I had taken to avoid all dangerous communication, and, on the morning of the 3d, we got under way before day-break.

CHAPTER XII.

Nautical remarks.—*The flag-ship of the Turkish navy carried off by a handful of christian slaves.*—*Captain of a Maltese privateer.*—*Unhappy situation of the Greeks in the small islands of the Archipelago.*—*Man, the most cruel of all animated beings.*—*Gulls.*—*Gulf of Stancho.*—*Ceramus.*—*Halicarnussus.*—*Boudron.*—*Mindes.*—*Salvadigo.*

THE eve of our departure from STANCHO was the day which the catholic church consecrates to the memory of the dead, (the 2d of November, *All-soul's day*), a day remarked by the navigators of the MEDITERRANEAN, whom experience has taught that at this period they have to apprehend stormy weather. But this observation, of long practice in navigation, is not to be understood in a literal sense; and it is the same with the gale of wind of ST. FRANCIS's day, or of the 4th of October, which the seamen of the western

ports of FRANCE dread in the northern seas: it is not always precisely in the course of the days of the 4th of October or of the 2d of November that ships are assailed by a storm; but they do not escape it, either a little before, or a little after. We had occasion to verify the correctness of these nautical remarks; for on *All Soul's* day itself the weather was not bad; nor was it so even the next day; but, in the evening, a shoal of porpoises, having passed with rapidity ahead of the vessel, we thought it our duty to prepare for some sudden gust of wind. In fact, on the 4th, an impetuous north-west wind rose all at once; the sea became furious; we drifted towards the coast of CANDIA. It was not possible, during the storm, to think of looking for the bad harbour of CANEA, for which our vessel had taken in her cargo, and we conceived ourselves very happy to be able to enter that of SUDA. We cast anchor there on the 6th of November in the evening, after having been in danger of being lost on the rocks of Cape MELECCA.

During the run of about seventy leagues, which we had made from STANCHÓ to SUDA, we had passed between several lands, of which I shall now speak, in order that I may not have

have to return to this quarter, the most eastern of the ARCHIPELAGO: I therefore resume my narrative, beginning from STANCHO.

A few years before I was at STANCHO, the roadstead had been the theatre of a scene, in which energy and enterprising genius on the one hand, and negligence and stupidity on the other, acted a memorable part. There, the flag-ship belonging to the Turks was carried off by a few christian slaves, in the very midst of the Ottoman fleet, and taken to MALTA, without resistance. I beheld, with an extreme degree of interest, the spot where so extraordinary a trait of courage and presence of mind had occurred: and I represented to myself the stupid astonishment of the Turks, when they perceived their principal ship of the line going off under full sail. This adventure, which gives the measure of the capacity and foresight of the officers of the Mussulman navy, had made a great noise in the LEVANT, where I have heard it related repeatedly; but I have likewise had the particulars of it from the leader himself of this bold *coup de main*, having known him during my stay in the ARCHIPELAGO.

A Turkish squadron, commanded by the High Admiral, or Captain Pacha, anchored at STANCHO, in the festivals of the *Beïram*, which terminate the fast of the *Ramadan*. The celebration of these religious and solemn festivals had attracted to the town the greater part of the officers and crews of the squadron, and even the Captain-Pacha himself. Twenty or twenty-five Europeans, taken in privateers belonging to MALTA, and reduced to slavery, served on board of the flag-ship. Captain G***, one of the most intrepid commanders of these privateers, who had fought the Mussulmans under the flag of the order of MALTA, was one of the slaves. Overwhelmed by numbers and by wounds, he had yielded, and had been thrown into irons; the opportunity appeared favourable to him for releasing himself from them: he hastened to communicate his plan and his boldness to his companions of misfortune, among whom were some Maltese, Corsicans, and Italians, and to inflame them by the hope of liberty and of a rich booty. Their resolution was soon taken; they fell on the first Turks that presented themselves; they disarmed them, and threw them all, one after the other, into the hold, the hatchways of which they secured,

cured. To cut the cables, hoist the sails, and get under way, was the business of the same moment. The other ships having no orders, and perceiving no signal, quietly beheld the departure of the flag-ship, which they might suppose bound on some temporary expedition; and it was not till the Captain-Pacha, apprized too late, in the midst of the exercise of his piety, and himself contemplating from the shore his own ship sailing away with a leading wind, that the squadron got under way; but the pursuit was useless. The ship, conducted by skilful seamen, escaped from them, and, a few days after, arrived off MALTA.

Every one there was very much surprised to see in the offing a large ship of war of Turkish construction, steering towards the entrance of the harbour. The galleys, the ancient monuments of the exploits and valour of the knights of MALTA, were sent to reconnoitre; the artillery was prepared; no precaution of defence was neglected: dispositions were made for repelling the attempts of the enemy; but enthusiasm succeeded these warlike preparatives, when it was known that the ship whose approach had occasioned alarm, was brought in by countrymen and friends, whom

whom there was little expectation of seeing again, and that they had made themselves masters of riches which were still less to be expected.

In fact, the value of this important prize was immense. A ship of the first rate, with her rigging, furniture, stores, provisions, ammunition, and her brass artillery, the money and jewels of the principal officers of the Ottoman navy, part of the sums which the Squadron had previously levied on the annual tribute of the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, formed a very rich booty, to which it was necessary to add the price that the order of MALTA paid for every Mahometan prisoner, who, from retaliation were all thrown into irons. The heroes who had seized all these treasures, had no inconsiderable number of Turks on board; and it had entered into their speculations, not to kill any of them, if possible, in order to increase the share which they promised themselves from the prize.

But policy deranged these great projects of fortune, and frustrated hopes which sound morality disapproves, but which custom and the sort of justice resulting from it, authorize. The court of CONSTANTINOPLE could not endure

endure such a humiliation: it addressed that of VERSAILLES, and claimed its interference. The latter required from the grand master that the ship should be restored; and officers belonging to the navy of FRANCE were ordered to take charge of her at MALTA, and carry her to CONSTANTINOPLE, where this act of generous condescension, on the part of the French government, made a very favourable impression. This was not the case at MALTA; there the knights beheld with concern the departure of considerable riches, the property of which appeared incontestably acquired, and the reward of the bravery of their intrepid cruisers. By way of indemnification, the captors were allowed a sum which they considered as moderate, in comparison to the money that the sale of the prize would have procured them, and it is added, that they waited a long time before it was paid.

Captain G*** spoke to me of this disappointment with much bitterness, and in the ill humour which the recollection of it had left on his mind, his hatred had well nigh fallen as much on the French as on the Turks. Although he had every thing to dread from the animosity of the latter, he was willing to attempt

attempt once more to carry on war against them, and to enrich himself with their spoils. I saw him in the ARCHIPELAGO, commanding a fast-sailing vessel, well armed and well equipped. To great intrepidity he joined admirable coolness, and a firmness of character by no means common. The Greeks trembled in his presence, as before the commanders of the Turkish vessels of war; tyranny was the same; but that of the Maltese, less violent, less impetuous than that of the Turks, had something more imposing, and more formidable, because it was calm, cool, and rational. At ARGENTIERA, I was shewn the site of a house which he had caused to be pulled down, and which no one durst rebuild. This happened on the following occasion.

The fate of the Greeks, inhabitants of the small islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, abandoned to themselves, and who seemed to be sought only to be tormented and plundered, was truly deplorable. If a Turkish ship, or the smallest galiot belonging to that nation, puts into one of these islands, the commander becomes its despot; the chiefs of the town or village hasten to kiss his hand, and receive his commands. He disposes of every thing, causes to be delivered to him the provisions and all the

the articles of which he stands in need, imposes labours on the men, sets up for supreme judge, decides controversies, settles quarrels, condemns to fines which must be paid immediately, orders the bastinado, on the sole of the feet, to be applied as he thinks proper; in short, his stay spreads terror and consternation. Did a Maltese privateer appear in her turn, nearly the same scenes of the abuse and harshness of power and of debasement were represented; the same compliments, the same presents, the same tasks, the same arbitrary acts, the same humiliations, and sometimes even ill usage.

One of the obligations of rigour imposed on these unfortunate Greeks, was, as soon as a Maltese or Turkish vessel cast anchor in their harbour, to station persons to look out on the most elevated points, in order to discover at a distance ships at sea, to give notice of their approach, and to screen a more troublesome guest from the danger of being surprised by his enemy. G*** had just arrived in the road of ARGENTIERA; watches had been placed, according to custom, at the top of towers built on some eminences which overlook the village on every side; the captain of the privateer was on shore with part

of his crew, when a vessel was seen to enter the road. The negligence of the sentinel posted on the side from which the vessel came, was cruelly punished. G*** ordered his house to be demolished, and forbade that, as long as he should live, any one should presume to build on the same spot. The order was executed in every point, and, several years after, I saw the ruins of the habitation of a whole family, over-run by brambles and serpents, and still struck by the curse of a plundering adventurer.

I was witness of the sang-froid of this same Captain G***, on another occasion, where he had like to have pronounced again the fatal anathema against another house in the village of ARGENTIERA. He had landed there with ten men well armed; and while the latter were dispersed among the inhabitants, whom they laid under contribution, he dined at the house of the French agent where I was. In the middle of dinner, his people ran in, quite scared, to announce to him that a vessel was coming into the road, and that she had the appearance of an enemy. G***, without rising from his seat or being in the least disconcerted, ordered them to bring to him the *épitrope*, a sort of mayor

or syndic. The latter being arrived, G*** asked him what man of his village he had placed to look out at such a tower? And, on receiving his answer, he enjoined him to lay hold of that man and bring him into his presence. This order being given in a tone to exact prompt and unqualified obedience, he rose from table, and turning towards his people, said to them: "Come, my lads, let us march, and prepare to attack and exterminate those dogs of Turks!" He did not go far, because it turned out that the vessel arrived was a Ragusan trader; but he was not disposed, on that account, to punish less cruelly the Greek who had neglected to give notice of the approach of this vessel; and it was not without great difficulty that the agent and I, by dint of earnest solicitations, succeeded in obtaining his pardon. A few days after, G*** was so fortunate as to surprise a caravel coming from ALEXANDRIA, richly laden, having on board the annual tribute which EGYPT paid to the Grand Signior. A prize of this importance insured the fortune of the captors; and I know not whether G***, who already lived at MALTA in easy circumstances, covered with years and wounds, having been
a long

long time in slavery among the Turks, has been able to make up his mind to pass the remainder of his life in tranquillity, and to expiate, by acts of beneficence and the exercise of the virtues, a career of disorder and pillage.

Man is not the only animated being that afflicts the earth by cruelties: most animals partake of his voracity; but, limited to satisfying their appetite, they do not, generally speaking, destroy but in proportion to their hunger: those of the same species tear not each other to pieces, and it is only on strangers that they exercise their gluttony. Man, on the contrary, the implacable murderer of animals of every species, is also the murderer of his own: it is not merely his insatiable appetite that must be gratified; but an inextinguishable thirst for riches, the factitious wants of society, impels him to every excess, to every crime, to an atrocious indifference to bloodshed; and, on this globe, the vast empire of rapacity, he proves himself to be the most ferocious, the most ruthless of tyrants.

A very faint image of this common tyranny is constantly retraced in the roadstead of STANCHO. Gulls, which the inhabitants of
our

our coasts of the MEDITERRANEAN call *gabians*, real feathered pirates; are there met with in great numbers. Sometimes they are seen cleaving the air in every direction, venting their sharp and tiresome cries, sometimes resting themselves on the waves, rising and falling with them, watching for small fishes, seizing them with their sharp-edged and crooked bill, and darting voraciously on the entrails of animals and other filth thrown overboard from the shipping. The fishermen of the LEVANT commonly employ for bait the flesh of gulls cut into bits; so that there exists, between those birds and the fishes, a sort of sympathy of appetite, of reciprocity of gluttony by which they are mutually led to devour each other.

Whether a vessel enter the road, or whether, without stopping there, she pass into the narrow channel which separates the Isle of STANCHO from the main land, she ought carefully to avoid a low and dangerous point, at the extremity of the most western cape of the island, and one of its ancient points of junction with the continent. This cape is scarcely more than a league distant from Cape *PATERA*, which, with that at present named Cape *CRIO*, already mentioned,

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forms a deep gulf of ASIA MINOR, which, in our time, is called the *GULF OF STANCHO*, from the name of the island situated at its entrance. This was anciently the *CERAMIC GULF*; it formed the separation of *CARIA* and *DORIS*, and derived its name from *CERAMUS*, a maritime town of *CARIA*. At this day its site and name are to be found in a place of little importance, called *KERAMO*.

It would not be so easy a matter to recognise *HALICARNASSUS*, in the harsh and barbarous name of *BOUDROU* or *BOUDROUN*, did we not positively know that in this place existed that ancient and celebrated city, at the entrance of the gulf, on the coast of *CARIA*. Rich and flourishing from its great commerce, magnificent from its monuments*, *HALICARNASSUS* has still greater claims to lasting renown, for having given birth to two great historians, *HERODOTUS* the father of history, and *DIONYSIUS* surnamed of *HALICARNASSUS*. And where is the love-struck and feeling mind that does not recollect,

* *M. DE CHOISEUL-GOUFFIER* has given some very beautiful remains of it in the first volume of his *Voyage Pittoresque de la Grèce*, which is itself a monument raised to the love of the fine arts.

with affecting emotion, that here, an inconsolable wife caused to be erected, by the most celebrated artists of GREECE, a superb tomb, a monument of her grief? ARTEMISA wished to immortalize the memory of king MAUSOLUS, her husband and brother, and above all her regret at having lost him, by the construction of an edifice destined to contain his cherished ashes; a work which was ranked among the seven wonders of the world. But, through another miracle of tenderness and affliction, this disconsolate wife, whose grief soon carried her to the grave, found no other means of comforting her heart, than by making it the worthy and sensible mausoleum, in which the excess of love seemed to restore to life inanimate remains: till her death, she failed not to mix in her drink some of her husband's ashes. How amiable and attracting would history be, how it would honour the human heart, had it only to transmit facts of this nature!

The fortress, which is at the entrance of the present harbour of BOUDROUN, is the work of the knights of ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM, who made themselves masters of this place, when, after the first crusades, they had established themselves at RHODES. They

constructed this citadel on the foundations of the magnificent palace of the consort of ARTEMISA; they named it *CASTEL SAN PIETRO*, or in Spanish, *SAN PEDRO*. Of this the Turks made *BEDRO*, then *BOUDROUN*, changing the *P* into *B*, according to their manner of pronunciation*. Coats of arms, sculptured in some compartments of the walls, still shew, as at RHODES, in whose hands BOUDROUN was, before it passed into those of the Turks. But it is not necessary to reach the shore, in order to be convinced that the latter are its possessors. Their negligence is manifest as soon as one approaches the harbour, which the Turks have suffered to be choked up, so that there is no longer water enough for large ships; this harbour is nevertheless safe and commodious, leaving to the wind and sea only a very narrow entrance.

Not far from HALICARNASSUS, and at the extremity of the same peninsula, was another city of CARIA; neither so large nor so celebrated, called *MYNDUS*; its name alone has been preserved, and it is still known by the name of *MINDES* or *MINDESSE*.

* CHOISEUL-GOUFFIER, *Voyage Pittoresque de la Grèce*, vol. i. page 155.

The cape, which terminates to the north the large promontory or peninsula forming the north side of the Gulf of STANCHO, is called Cape GUMICHLU or ANGELI; it is opposite to Cape PATERA, and at the entrance of another gulf, which the ancients called JASSIUS SINUS, from the name of the City of JASSUS, which stood in its recess.

Between Cape GUMICHLU and Cape PATERA, the coast is strewn with shoals, which are called the SALVADIGO Islands. They render the approach to this land dangerous to navigation.

CHAPTER XIII.

Capra and Caprone.—Calamo.—Lero.—Levates.—Stampalia and its pleasantness.—Fishes.—Weever.—Mullet.—Mormylus.—Melanurus.—Skatari.—Cabrilla.—Natural history of fishes.—Buffon and Lacépède.—Singularity of the cabrilla.

THE first island that is met with to the north-west, on quitting the Isle of STANCHO, is CAPRA, near which another, larger, is called CAPRONE. The small extent of these two islands, and their names, sufficiently indicate, that they are inhabited only by goats, which find means to climb up rocks inaccessible to men.

Farther on, lies an island somewhat more considerable, though not large, since it is only five or six leagues in circumference. It is called CALAMO, CALMINO, or CALIMENA. The ancients called it CLAROS;

PLINY also distinguishes it by the name of *CALYDNA*, and OVID has extolled the abundance of the honey which it produced*. There are, on this island, some very lofty mountains, a population far from numerous, and the remains of an ancient town on the west coast; on the other side, a village, which also bears the name of *CALAMO*, built on the summit of a mountain, and near to it, a tolerably good harbour, formed by a bight or small gulf, before which lies an islet that shelters it from the winds and sea: but this harbour is little frequented; the main land which is in the vicinity, and the larger islands which are within reach, present harbours still better, and at the same time more calculated for the supply of provisions to navigators, and for the speculations of traders. *CALAMO* is, in fact, a poor island, which cannot provide for the subsistence of its inhabitants, almost all occupied in procuring foreign resources by a carrying-trade. Their mountains, indeed, contain minerals; but this circumstance, which, under another government than that of the Turks, would con-

* ———— *Fœcundaque melle Calydna*.—Metamorph.
lib. viii.

stitute the wealth of a country, would, under theirs, become a source of oppression and ruin.

This is likewise the case with the Isle of *LERO*; between which and the Isle of *CALAMO* we passed, in order to proceed to *CANDIA*. It neither has more extent nor more advantages; a good harbour and a few coves, high mountains, in whose bosom mines and quarries of marble might be worked, an ungrateful soil, its inhabitants under the necessity of seeking abroad succours by navigation and traffic, a communication far from frequent with foreign shipping, are so many traits of conformity between these two islands.

LERO has not changed the name which it bore in antiquity; but its present state is very different from that formerly enjoyed by this colony of Milesians.

We then passed between the Islands of *STAMPALIA* and *AMORGO*, after having left, between this latter island and that of *LERO*, some barren and uninhabited islets, which are called *LEVATES*, anciently *LEBYNTHOS*. Ships may anchor near the largest of these islets.

In the name of *STAMPALIA*, or *STAMPALÆA*, we again find that of *ASTYPALÆA*, which the same island formerly bore. This name of *ASTYPALÆA*, which, in its proper signification,
means

means the *ancient city*, is said to be derived from that of the daughter of PHŒNIX and PIRAMEDE, sister of EUROPA, and beloved by NEPTUNE, by whom she had ANCÆUS, who reigned over the people named LELEGI*. This island was also called PYRRHA, PILEA, and at length THEON-TRABEZA, that is, *the table of the gods*, because its soil is rich with the gifts of fertility, and almost every where enamelled with flowers.

In the time of PLINY, it was an independent country, which belonged to no one†. Here ACHILLES had a temple, and here that sort of worship which was paid to valour, undoubtedly contributed to maintain among its inhabitants the energy necessary for people who are not willing to submit to the yoke of a conqueror.

If we chose to give to STAMPALIA an epithet which might be applied to its irregular form, we should call it *the Indented Island*. Its shores are, in fact, as if rent, and presenting a multitude of points and sinuosities, which form so many bays and coves more or less fit for the anchorage of ships or boats; but we can scarcely reckon there more than

* PAUSANIAS, book vii. chap. iv.

† Hist. Nat. book iv. chap. x.

two harbours; the one to the south, the other to the north. It is much longer than it is broad, being only two leagues in its greatest breadth, and six in length. It is not very lofty, and no high mountains cause it to be discovered from afar. Soil of this nature is the most adapted to fecundity, which takes delight in embellishing plains and hills, and does not extend to the top of steep mountains. STAMPALIA is one of the most fertile islands of the ARCHIPELAGO; its inhabitants partake of the mildness of the climate and the goodness of the soil; and there is not to be found in their character the roughness and asperity of their neighbours, the islanders of CALAMO and LERO, countries ungrateful and rugged.

But, in regions so favoured by Nature, and so disfigured by the form of the administration to which an unhappy and too lasting a lot has subjected them, the gifts of brilliant fecundity are scourges, and a stony aridity is a desirable blessing. The one, the natural and legitimate source of riches, becomes that of frequent exactions. The more a country is beautiful and smiling, the more it attracts the attention and the visits of stupid and ferocious extortioners, who there spread discouragement

ment and annihilate agriculture; whereas those mad despots, who ruin themselves by ruining their domain, avoid barren countries, and dread men who live on mountains, the usual asylum of poverty, courage, and independence.

Were I at liberty to choose an agreeable retreat, which, without being solitary, should be free from noise or interruption; which should not be deprived of communications from without, yet should but seldom occasion them to be wished for; which, under a happy temperature, would keep me alike secure from the oppression of heat and from the sharp sensations of cold; in which an easy culture would yield me much beyond what can be expected from trifling labours, at the same time that I should find there the abundant resources of a wholesome and varied food; where my steps and my sight would wander with so much satisfaction and pleasure over plains enriched by the bounties of a fruitful agriculture, and chequered with a multitude of flowers sown by the hand of Nature; where, in short, beauty is in a delightful harmony with tenderness and sensibility, my choice would fall on STAMPALIA, provided that it ceased to be subject to the empire

empire of the Turks, and that not one of those profaners of the finest countries of the earth could pollute it with his presence.

The sea is no where so full of fish as on the shores of an island which Nature had destined to be fortunate, and which the barbarous power of the Turks has contrived to render unhappy. The fishes, which I there saw the most commonly taken, are the following:

1. The weever*, the *dracon* of the ancient Greeks, and which the moderns still name *drakaina*. In request for our tables, on account of the exquisite taste and the firmness of its flesh, fishermen dread it, from the pain and danger which they experience from the puncture of the prickles with which it is armed, and with which it strikes with much force and address. The most common method of catching these fishes in the sea of the ARCHIPELAGO is with silk lines, which are sunk to the bottom of the water, and care is taken, as soon as any are caught, to knock them in the head, in order to avoid their venomous wounds. I have known, in these seas, a fisherman, who, having been pricked by a weever, experienced great inflammation, and

* *Trachinus draco*. LINN.

a considerable swelling, attended with fever and delirium.

I have seen weevers whose colours were not the same, and which had, on the sides of the body, large black spots that others had not; but these differences are not, perhaps, sufficient for constituting distinct species, as several naturalists have imagined; since the differences consist only in varieties of colours, the effect of the different nature of the bottom where they feed, and of a few other circumstances, and since, besides, these fishes, whatever may be the dissimilarity of their tints, have all the same forms, and the same characters, as well internal as external.

By the account of the fishermen of the **LEVANT**, weevers do not there exceed a foot; and, indeed, that size is even uncommon. They are pretty frequent in those seas, and their flesh is there much esteemed; but as, without being hard, it is more firm than that of other fishes, it is customary to allow a longer time for its being dressed.

2. The mugil or mullet*, to which the modern Greeks have preserved the name of *kephalos*, given it by their ancestors. The

* *Mugil cephalus*. LINN.

Turks call it *kefal-baluc*. Many of these fishes, which are of a small size, are taken in the ARCHIPELAGO during the summer: they require, according to every appearance, a more open sea, when they have attained a larger growth; for those caught on the coast of the Island of CANDIA are generally larger than those found in the narrow channels which separate the islands; unless we imagine smaller mullets to be a distinct variety, to which the Greeks give the denomination of *kephalo-poulo*, little mullet.

3. The mormylus†, or *mormyra* of the modern Greeks, a name which differs very little from that of *mormyros* or *mormylos*, under which the ancients knew that fish, on account of its whiteness and its marbled spots. Silvery white, blue, and gold colour yellow, glisten on its scales, and cupreous reflections increase their lustre. Its flesh does not correspond with the beauty of its exterior; it is far from firm, and sometimes contracts the taste of mud, in which the mormylus delights, and where it feeds on little crustacea and mollusca.

† *Sparus mormyrus*. LINN.

Writers on ichthyology have said that the mormylus scarcely attains more than the length of a foot. I saw one in the ARCHIPELAGO which was upwards of a foot and a half in length.

4. Another fish of the same genus as the mormylus, but whose flesh is delicate and well-tasted, is called by the modern Greeks *melanouri*. It is the *oblade* of our coasts in the MEDITERRANEAN†, the *melanouros* of the ancient Greeks, and the *klali* or the *schargusch* of the Arabs. I give the figure of it (*Plate IV. fig. 1.*), because I found that it was by no means exact in the books of natural history of fishes, which is owing, perhaps, to the existence of some variety in this species.

The name of *melanurus* has been given to this fish, on account of a large black spot which it has on each side of the tail, near the fin. Other species also bear the same spot; but they are easily distinguished from this, which has the body more elongated, and the eyes larger: this latter character has likewise procured it the denomination of *ocalata* in Latin, and *occhiata* in Italian. A colour

† *Sparus melanurus*. LINN.

of a blackish blue, with reflections shining with silver, adorns, with changeable shades, the upper part of the body; it grows fainter on approaching the belly, which is of a silvery white. The eyes are of a gold colour yellow, with a few light and blackish shades. The colours are more faint and less dazzling on the scales of the females and the young ones. When these fishes are still small, the Greeks call them *aphropsara*, froth-fishes.

The bait the most in use for taking the *melanurus* in the ARCHIPELAGO is a mixture of bread and cheese, which is thrown on the water.

5. The *skatari* of the Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO, another species of *sparus* which has much affinity to the *cantharus**, or silvery-eyed *sparus*, with yellow, longitudinal, parallel lines; but which, at the same time, differs from it sufficiently to be considered as a distinct species, or at least as a constant variety. (See *Plate V. fig. 2.*) The drawing represents exactly all the details of exterior conformation; and the most certain manner of expressing them, being to speak to the eyes by good figures, I shall dispense with

* *Sparus cantharus*. LINN.

endeavouring to trace those forms by words, which, however clear we may suppose them, present but an imperfect image of the objects which we purpose to describe. I shall confine myself to saying a few words of the parts which do not appear in the drawing.

The opening of the mouth is very small, if we compare it to the size of the fish. Each jaw is furnished in front with long teeth, bent inwards, pointed, and sufficiently distinct from each other for those above to lock between those below, and *vice versa*. The number of these teeth is not the same in every individual: I have seen some with twelve; others with ten in each jaw; some again have only ten above and twelve below. Behind these teeth, the jaws are thickly beset with a great number of small points, which render them rough to the touch like a rasp; and on the sides is a row of other teeth, short and slender; the tongue is terminated in a point; and in the inside of the throat there is, both above and below, a bony tubercle covered with asperities.

The *skatari* has the upper part of the sides of the head of a gray, variegated with a blackish hue; the top of the head, between the eyes, appearing, in certain lights, of a cupreous and azure blue; a blackish tint

round the eyes; the operculæ of the gills of a brilliant, cupreous green colour, with blackish variegations; the sides of the body of a blackish gray, deeper towards the middle, and striped, throughout all the length, with lines of a sky blue; the under part of the head and body variegated with gray and white; the dorsal fin half blackish gray, and gray clouded with bright blue; the caudal fin of a gray, glistening with cupreous reflections, and terminated in black; the pinna ani spotted with gray and bluish, with a gray border, and a little bright blue in the part occupied by the prickly rays; the ventral fins variegated with gray, white, and bluish; lastly, the pectoral fins gray, with tints of sky blue. The lateral line is of a yellow, slightly tinged with a bluish cast; the eyes are blue, with white spots, and the inside of the mouth, as well as the tongue, is white.

I observed, that all the fishes of this species had not the same tints nor the same colours; and these trifling disparities are probably produced by age, sex, or the nature of the bottom. They all have the gall-bladder elongated and cylindrical, the spleen blackish, the liver large, and of a reddish gray, the air-bladder very ample, and of the same form
as

as that of the *fangri**. Their flesh is firm and delicate; they approach the coasts only during bad weather: I have been assured that the season for spawning was in the months of September and October. These fishes are of an extreme voracity, and they exercise it on those of the small species; almost all the skataris which I opened, had the stomach and intestines filled with *athernos*, fishes of which I shall speak in the sequel.

6. The *cabrilla*†, a small fish which has many affinities to the perch. The Greeks have preserved to it the ancient name of *channo*, from the verb *chainein*, which signifies to gape, because this fish almost continually keeps its mouth open, and seems to gape. (See *Plate IV. fig. 3.*)

In the seas of the LEVANT, are caught cabrillæ which vary in colour: these differences, according to the Greek fishermen, are owing to the diversity of the bottom on which the cabrillæ live habitually; and this observation is, with some modifications, perhaps applicable to other species of fishes. The cabrillæ, which keep on a rocky bottom, have colours

* See page 175 of this volume.

† *Perca cabrilla*. LINN.

more lively and more variegated than those which remain, from preference, on a bottom soft and muddy. Among the great number of fishes of this species which I examined in the ARCHIPELAGO, I remarked four very distinct varieties.

Those of the first have the head variegated with brown, red, and bluish gray, with orange colour streaks; the upper half of the body of a bright brown, shaded with gray, with broad stripes of a reddish brown; the lower part of the body of a bluish gray, striped longitudinally with orange colour; the under part of the head red; the belly of a pale rose colour; the dorsal fin blackish at its base, afterwards bluish, then flaxen, lastly bordered with gray, with white spots; the caudal and anal fins bluish, and spotted with flaxen; the ventral fins of the same bluish colour, with yellow lines between the rays; the membrane of the pectoral fins of a bluish gray, and its rays of a gold colour; the eyes orange colour; the inside of the mouth a little reddish, and the tongue white.

The cabrillæ of the second variety differ from those of the first, by a broad stripe of a reddish brown dividing them into two equal parts throughout all their length; by another stripe

stripe, equally broad, of an orange colour, having immediately underneath it a bar of sky blue, extending from the pectoral fins to the tail, on a bluish gray ground; by having the under part of the head of a bright red, and the iris of the eyes yellow, and spotted with red.

A third variety comprehends the fishes of this species, whose head is of a gray shaded with a bluish tinge, with flaxen lines; the upper half of the body gray, and striped with large transverse bands of a fawn colour gray, the other half bluish, and striped longitudinally with flaxen colour; the whole body glistening with reddish reflections; the under part of the head of a pale rose colour; the belly white, lightly shaded with red; the caudal fin bluish, speckled with bright blue and orange colour, and terminated with a blackish tint; the pinnae without spots, and the iris of the eyes white.

Lastly, and this last variety is very uncommon, are some cabrilla which are white, and whose transverse stripes are of a very light fawn colour, and the longitudinal lines of a very light red.

If the reader compare these details respecting the forms and colours of cabrilla with the

incomplete and even incorrect descriptions which are to be found in the works of naturalists who have spoken of them, such as BELON, RONDELET, SABIAN, WIL- LUGHBY, &c. he will be convinced that the natural history of fishes has still much to acquire, and that a multitude of observations is wanting for our knowledge in this line, to be on a par with that which has been collected in some other branches of zoology. This branch, however, is not the least important; it interests the arts, commerce, and navigation, those powerful vehicles of the wealth and prosperity of nations; and the laudable curiosity, which leads well-intentioned persons to learn and admire the infinite and majestic variety of the works of Nature, finds an aliment worthy of it in that immense crowd of beings that people the waters, and there display the dazzling reflections with which the scales of the greater part of them glitter.

But so interesting a branch of the science of Nature is on the point of taking a new flight, and reaching the pitch which has been attained by other parts more easy, but neither more agreeable nor more useful to be cultivated. BUFFON had given an impulse to every
mind;

mind; the knowledge of natural history, generally neglected or confined to the narrow circle of the learned, became a prevailing taste, a want for men animated by the desire of instruction; the genius of the PLINY of FRANCE, equally lofty, equally sublime, but less gloomy than that of the PLINY of antiquity, lighted them with his torch, and led the way to the sanctuary of Nature, whose most secret recesses, and most precious materials, he had begun to unveil and expose to admiration. In terminating a career of glory which conducted him to the temple of Immortality, this man, of gigantic renown, against which the efforts of audacious Mediocrity, and the shafts of obscure Envy, are annihilated, like feeble waves against a rock standing on an unshaken base; this man, I say, the cherished confidant and painter of Nature, bequeathed his rights and his pencils to him of his cotemporaries the most worthy of that brilliant and honourable inheritance. We love to find again the successor of BUFFON, to follow him in his profound researches, to contemplate the colouring and harmony of his pictures, to participate in the movements of the exquisite sensibility of his soul; and if BUFFON found means to render the study of

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the natural history of quadrupeds and birds so attracting, it was reserved for LACEPÈDE to diffuse the same charms on the natural history of fishes.

An ancient naturalist, whose name ought of course to be classed with those of PLINY, BUFFON, and LACEPÈDE, has said that the cabrillæ were all females*. This opinion was so widely spread, that it was adopted even by the poets†. RONDELET affirms that all those which he dissected had a womb‡; other authors have repeated what was written by ARISTOTLE and RONDELET; but this observation has, without inquiry, been rejected by DUHAMEL||. However, the remark of ARISTOTLE is not destitute of foundation; and if we chose to take the trouble of verifying most of the facts which the valuable works of antiquity set forth as true, and which those of our days declare to be false, we should, perhaps, get the better of the frenzy that

* ARISTOTLE, Hist. of Animals, book iv. chap. ii.; book vi. chap. xii.; and Treatise on Generation, book iii. chap. v. and x.

† *Concipiunt channæ gemino fraudata parente.* OVID.

‡ *Apud Gesnerum, in aquatilibus, de channa.*

|| *Traité de Pêches, part ii. sect. iii. chap. iii. art. ii.*

leads us to reject a multitude of observations, which, although they clash with general ideas, are not, on that account, the less real.

I endeavoured to ascertain whether ARISTOTLE had been mistaken on this occasion, as DUHAMEL has asserted. I opened several *cabrillæ* in the LEVANT; and, if they were not all females, properly so called, all might be reckoned real hermaphrodites, since all had seed or soft roe, and at the same time an ovary, containing eggs in a small quantity.

These fishes scarcely exceed eight or ten inches in length, in the sea of the ARCHIPELAGO, where they are frequently met with. It is in autumn that they appear there most commonly, and are caught with greater facility, because they are then assembled in shoals. They devour fishes smaller than themselves, but nevertheless sufficiently large to appear secure from the voracity of *cabrillæ*: I saw one five inches long, which had swallowed an atherno of nearly three inches in length. And, indeed, their gluttony has become proverbial among several nations of the East. However, the flesh of the *cabrilla* is white, firm, and well-flavoured; but it is full of small bones, which render it troublesome to be eaten.

CHAPTER XIV.

Amorgo.—*Oracle invented by the Greek monks.*
 —*Present state of that island.*—*Archil.*—*Trade of the French and of the English in the Levant.*—*Squills or sea-onions.*—*Tetters.*
 —*Teeth.*—*Prejudices.*—*Women of Amorgo.*
 —*Their dress.*—*Amorgo-Poulo.*—*Islets.*

TO the north-west of the Island of STAMPALIA is the Isle of AMORGO, which, in the time of PLINY, bore the same name of *AMORGOS*, or *AMORGUS*; more anciently it was called *HYPERA*, and before then *PATAGE*, and, according to others, *PLATAGA**. It is not quite so large as STAMPALIA, and its shores are less winding, and less thickly furnished with capes and points: accordingly it presents not so many retreats to navigators. There are none on its long eastern coast, which is very steep, and we can scarcely reckon more

* PLINY, Hist. Nat. lib. iv. cap. xii.

than two tolerably commodious harbours, or havens, on its western shore; the one, to the north, is called *PORTO SANT' ANNA*; and the other, to the south, and the better, *PORTO VATHI*.

The inhabitants of *AMORGO* were formerly friends to the sciences and fine arts; at this day they are devoted to ignorance, and to superstition, its faithful companion. In the country which gave birth to *SIMONIDES*, he of the Greek poets who possessed, in the highest degree, the art of moving the passions, and of causing the sweet tears of sensibility to flow, are now to be found no others than *papas* and *caloyers*, without genius, as well as without knowledge, and credulous ministers of an absurd credulity. They shew, in a small chapel, a vase, which they affirm to be a certain oracle, and which the ignorant consult, in order to know what will be the issue of a voyage, or an enterprize. The vase full of water is a sign of success; if it be almost empty, it announces ill fortune; and fables and impostures of this sort have, among the modern Greeks, replaced the ingenious and allegorical fictions of their ancestors.

Of three ancient towns, *ARCESINA*, *MINOË*, and *ÆGIALE*, destroyed even to their very vestiges,

vestiges, since their site is doubtful, there remains only a little town, or village, built on an eminence; and monasteries, where miracles are the occupation and the principal revenue of the monks or caloyers who inhabit them.

High mountains, naked and steep rocks, occupy some points of the island. In other parts, plains and vallies are the domain of a brilliant fertility. The abundance of its wines, oil, corn, and fruits, was renowned; it still subsists, although less rich, because, far from being seconded, it has to surmount the obstacles and difficulties of a bad administration. A few districts are still well cultivated, and yield rich harvests; olive-trees there furnish a tolerably large quantity of oil, in proportion to the extent of the territory; figs are there good and very common, and the wine is still of a very good quality. That species of large grape with oval seeds, and a succulent and perfumed pulp, which the present Greeks call *ox-eye*, and we *raisin d'ALEXANDRIE*, there becomes of a considerable size, and very delicious.

If agriculture has almost preserved its ancient prosperity, the arts are there extinct, as well as the sciences which accompany and direct them. At AMORGOS are no longer fabricated

bricated those rich stuffs, which, under the name of *amorgis*, were in great request, both on account of the fineness of their tissue, and of the beauty of the colour with which they were dyed. The inhabitants, nevertheless, still apply themselves to dyeing; and they know how to give to their linen-cloths a red colour with archil, a species of lichen, which is called by the French, in trade, *orseille d'herbe ou d'AFRIQUE* *. This not only clothes the rocks of AMORGOS, but it grows also on those of several other islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, and particularly in that of ARGENTIERA, of TINO, and of POLICANDRO. But the Greeks of the greater part of those islands were not acquainted with the property of this archil, which they considered as a useless moss, of whose name even they were ignorant. It was not till 1776, or 1777, that they began to know that it was of some value; and they learnt this from the English, who came to purchase it, and ship it on board small vessels. The latter paid for it from six to thirteen parats the ocque, that is, from three to six *sous* the

* *Lichen Græcus, Polypoides, tinctorius, saxatilis*, Tourn. cor. xl.; and *fucus verrucosus tinctorius*. Instit. Rei. Herb. *Lichen roccella*. LINN.

pound. When I was in those islands, in 1799, archil still passed there by no other name than that of *Englishman's grass*.

Thus it is that people, whose institutions are directed towards trade and manufactures, learn to avail themselves of every resource, and exercise their industrious activity on productions which others disdain; thus it is that, in the greatest things, as well as in those which are the most trifling in appearance, the English nation has almost always preceded every other in point of discoveries, and does not consider as unworthy of its researches and speculations, objects which seem the most minute, provided they can be turned to the benefit of traffic and of the useful arts. I have always been struck by the manner in which the French carried on trade in the LEVANT. Not but that it was rich and flourishing; yet they proceeded only on a large scale; they neglected smaller matters in a country where the division of the soil commands them, and where they may be multiplied with considerable advantage; and it cannot be doubted, that a junction of several small branches of traffic, each of which, in particular, appears of little importance, may, in its turn, form a mass of produce very interesting to commerce and industry

dustry. These reflections, to which I shall give greater scope in the sequel of this work, naturally present themselves, when we have seen the French, whose trade to the LEVANT was very anciently established; who there obtained a very great preponderancy, and held it almost entirely in their own hands; whose agents were spread, for a time, over all its islands which afforded any interest, whether from their commerce, or from the intercourse with the shipping which touched there; when we have, I say, seen the French, enjoying in the Turkish empire an ascendancy which other nations were far from attaining, not availing themselves of so advantageous a position, neglecting easy means of increasing their commercial riches, and suffering foreigners to get possession of them, and to derive a considerable profit from what they either did not know, or disdained.

The same English vessels which came to turn to account the productions of the rocks of the small islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, also took in squills, or sea-onions*, which grow there in abundance, on the mountains and between the rocks. While augmenting their

* *Scuilla maritima*. LINN.

own commerce, they thus furnished to the poorest class of those islands, which there, as every where, are numerous, new means of existence, by the search, far from laborious, of archil and squills.

The Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO call this latter plant *kourvara-skilla*, ball squill; *kourvara* signifying properly a ball of thread. They also give the name of *skilla* to a plant of another genus, and which is an *orchis* or *satyrion**. But, in order to distinguish it from the real squill, these islanders call it *orchida-skilla*, squill with testicles, on account of the form of its fleshy and oblong bulbs, somewhat similar to the testicles of sheep. In the ARCHIPELAGO, they are reckoned to be very serviceable for the cure of tetters. I myself have seen some very good effects from them, when that disorder did not arise from a blood too much vitiated. The whole preparation consists in dividing, with a knife, one of these bulbs in the middle, and in making incisions in its flesh, in order that the juice may flow from it more easily. The tetters are rubbed with this repeatedly. This very simple medicament makes them disappear when they are

* *Satyrion orchioides* LINN.

recent, and cleanses and softens very much the more inveterate and of longer standing. But, in countries where superstition is always by the side of reality, people are not contented with properties confirmed by reason and experience, but seek imaginary ones. To satyrion is attributed the virtue of preserving the teeth white and sound for a length of time, not by making use of some of the parts of that plant for the purpose of rubbing or washing the teeth; but if any one meet with a young shoot of satyrion, at the moment when it is beginning to appear above ground, he must prostrate himself, and bite, as hard as he can, this sprouting stem, which is then white, with a few black specks.

A multitude of similar practices are to be remarked among the modern Greeks. These are not, as in countries where instruction and knowledge are more diffused, the ridiculous appendage of the ignorant class. Opulence, which procures elsewhere the advantages of a good education, and repels foolish credulity, makes, in GREECE, no difference on this subject between the rich man and him who lives in a state of wretchedness. They all are given up to the same errors, to the same practices of superstitious credulity, to the same

confidence in ignorance; and in traditions equally absurd and whimsical; so that there, prejudices are common to all classes, and senseless creeds are there generally accredited, and, if I may so express myself, are national.

Of these I shall frequently have occasion to mention instances which deserve to be collected as materials for the history of the human mind; and, in particular, for that of a people who were at all times one of the most superstitious in the world, and whom slavery, and a forgetfulness of the sciences and fine arts, have involved in all the errors which ignorance can introduce into minds long since disposed to welcome and preserve them.

Among the allurements of AMORGOS, we must place in the first rank the mildness and affability of its inhabitants, and the beauty of the women, who, by their charms, remind us that we are in countries, where, from time immemorial, the most amiable sex were in possession of forms the most noble and most elegant, of the bloom of brilliant colour, of an outline the most graceful, of minute attractions the most fascinating. But these handsome women clothe themselves with strange dresses, to which European eyes are not easily reconciled; and they must needs be

truly

truly beautiful to appear so under such a garb. It bears much resemblance to the dress of the women of NILO and ARGENTIERA, of which I give the figure (*Plate VII.*); with this difference—the women of AMORGOS pass a shawl, or large yellow handkerchief, made of fine wool, over their forehead and the lower part of their face, twist it round their head in the form of a turban, tie it behind, and suffer a long end of it to hang down their back.

Among the people of the EAST, fashions are not, as in our western countries, ephemeral fancies, bantlings of instability and capricious luxury; they are customs lasting and ancient, whose origin is lost in the obscurity of ages, and which will still have a long continuance. If, as cannot be doubted, the usages of nations are an image of their character, we shall conceive a high opinion of the constancy of the women of AMORGOS, and of all those of the other parts of GREECE, who, like them, attached to ancient habits, and strangers to the versatility of fancies, have preserved their dress, however whimsical, however inconvenient even it may appear, when one is not accustomed to see it or wear it. In fact, it is among these women, so favoured by

Nature, but at the same time so indifferent as to procuring themselves garments more suitable to their shape, and better calculated for the more advantageous display of their charms, that it is common to meet with the valuable union of beauty, glowing affection, and constancy.

South of the Island of AMORGOS, and at the distance of about three leagues, is seen an uninhabited islet, which is called *AMORGO-POULO*, or *LITTLE AMORGO*.

Between the same island and that of *NAXIA*, that is, to the west of the former, are other islets equally uncultivated and uninhabited, some of which, covered with lentisks*, small cypress-leaved cedars †, and other wild plants, serve for the feeding of the flocks which are kept on them; while the others, which consist of steep masses of rocks destitute of all verdure, are the abode of a multitude of birds of prey.

* *Lentiscus vulgaris*. *TOURN.*

† *Cedrus baccifera, folio cupressi, major, fructu flavescens*. *TOURN.*

CHAPTER XII.

Nanfio.—*Partridges*.—Nio.—*Festival of St. Gregory*.—*Cock-roaches*.—*Day reputed unlucky among the Greeks*.—*Women of Nio*.—*Hair of the Greek Women*.—*Dresses of the Women of Nio, and of some other islands of the Archipelago*.—*Women of Santorin*.—*Cotton manufactures*.—*Island of Santorin*.—*Kammeni*.—*Account of a sudden appearance of a new island in 1707*.—*Its present state*.—*Superstitious idea conceived of it by the Greeks*.—*Pumice-stones*.—*Islands of the Gulf of Santorin*.—*A bank or ledge appearing likely to form, ere long, another island*.—*Earthquakes*.—*Island of Santorin*.—*Nature of its soil, its productions*.—*Thera*.—*Pyrgos*.—*San Nicolo*.—*Scaro*.—*Greeks of Santorin*.—*Their efforts for preventing, in their island, the working of pozzolana*.—*Christiana*.

THE channel formed by the Islands of STAMPALIA and AMORGOS extends between

two others, equally inconsiderable, *NANFIO* and *NIO*. The former, situated to the south-west of *STAMPALIA*, is little more than seven leagues in circuit. Its first name was *MEMBLIAROS*; which it derived from *MEMBLIARES*, the Phœnician, who, when his relation *CADMUS* went in quest of *EUROPA*, accompanied him, and settled in the neighbouring Island of *THERA*. It has since been named *ANAPHE*, a Phœnician word, which, according to *BOCHART*, signifies shaded and dark, an epithet which this island had obtained from its gloomy and thick forests. However, the most common opinion is, that it owes this name of *ANAPHE* to the Greek word *phaino*, which means *to appear*, from the thunder having on a sudden occasioned it to rise from the bottom of the waters, in order to receive the fleet of the Argonauts on its return from *COLCHIS*, when assailed by a furious tempest. This fable of antiquity is the history of the formation of *NANFIO*, which a volcano caused to appear suddenly above the sea, in the midst of a violent agitation of the atmosphere and of the waves, as has happened to some other islands of the *ARCHIPELAGO*.

In memory of this event was built a temple, which was consecrated to *APOLLO ÆGLETES*,

or

or dazzling with light. Mirth, wine, and pleasantry, presided at the festivals which were here celebrated. Slight vestiges of this temple are still to be found on the place which it occupied, in the south part of the island; and the marble of which it was constructed was taken from a very steep rock, of a frightful aspect, on whose summit is seen a chapel, dedicated to *Our Lady of the Reed*; in modern Greek, *Panagia Kalamotisa*.

The tufted forests, which are said to have darkened the surface of the island, have disappeared; and there are now to be found only some scattered shrubs. Its mountains are barren and naked, and its plains afford not vegetation much more brilliant. Agriculture there languishes; and, notwithstanding the goodness of the soil, barley is almost the only plant which there produces any harvest. Some small plantations of vines yield good wine, and honey is common. TOURNEFORT relates, that partridges multiplied there so prodigiously, that, in order to preserve the corn, the inhabitants, by direction of the magistrates, collect all the eggs that can be found about the Easter holidays, and which commonly amount to upwards of ten or twelve thousand; these are made into all

forts of sauces, and especially into omelets: "however, notwithstanding this precaution," says TOURNEFORT, "we put up covies of partridges at every step*." I had not an opportunity of ascertaining whether this great quantity of partridges exist at NANFIO at the present day. They are, in general, very common in the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO; but, however, not so much so as they were in the last-mentioned isle, in the time of TOURNEFORT.

The partridges of the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO are of the red species†: they there live on the mountains and in the midst of the bushes; they are sometimes seen perched on trees, which is never the case with gray partridges. The sportsmen of the LEVANT have observed that these birds, when they run, always go up hill. They are the most common game in those countries, where they are sold at a very low price; their flesh is more savoury than that of the gray partridges.

A small town, built to the south, contains the whole population of NANFIO; every

* *Relation d'un Voyage du Levant*, vol. i. 4to. page 276.

† *Perdrix rouge*. BUFFON, *Hist. Nat. des Oiseaux*, et planche enluminée, N^o. 150.—*Tetrao rufus*. Var. 6. LINN.

thing bespeaks the wretchedness spread over the territory of the island. Here is no harbour; but, in front of the town, ships find a very good roadstead, protected by a small shoal, which is called *NANFIO-POULO*, **LITTLE NANFIO**.

The Isle of *NIO*, more fertile, and at the same time more celebrated, lies to the west of *NANFIO*, and to the south of *AMORGOS*. It is in the harbour of this island, known by the ancients under the name of *Ios*, because it was peopled by Ionians, that *HOMER* expired, in his voyage from *SAMOS* to *ATHENS*. The inhabitants, in honour of him, erected a tomb, of which there are no longer any vestiges, in like manner as the modern Greeks have lost all remembrance of the honourable interment which their ancestors bestowed on the most famous poet of antiquity.

The present town, which bears the same name as the island, is built on an eminence, and, probably, on the spot which was occupied by the ancient city. Nothing remarkable is there to be found, unless it be the hospitable character of those who reside there; they shew to strangers great attention, and the most obliging behaviour; and, on quitting them, every one is impressed with the
best

best opinion of their generous affability*. The women, on their part, likewise embellish this abode by their charms, their kindness, and their virtues.

The French had a consul in this place; but, since the system has prevailed of uniting, or, to speak more correctly, of limiting our commerce to the large sea-ports, vessels have ceased to frequent the excellent harbour of Nio, and the government to maintain there a superintendant, whose presence became useless in the plan which had been formed, and which was far from being the most advantageous for commerce.

The interior of the island, less hilly than the soil of the greater part of those of which I have spoken, produces abundance of wheat, part of which the inhabitants export for sale. Cupidity, want of foresight, the eager desire of enjoyment, more conspicuous among men

* TOURNEFORT (*Voyage au Levant*) has described the Niots as thieves and robbers; but either this author was not acquainted with them, or they have greatly changed, since the period of his Travels. It is probable that then there were at Nio some remains of the colony which a Duke of Naxia, to whom the island belonged, introduced there, and which was composed of Albanians, a tribe of Greeks, warlike, restless, and inclined to robbery.

who

who live in oppression and misfortune, and who have only to look forward to a futurity that is doubtful, have induced the inhabitants to fell the fine woods which covered some districts; so that NIO, after having supplied the neighbouring islands, is at present almost entirely destitute. But the mildness of the climate renders not this scarcity of wood distressing; the inhabitants never have occasion to seek the fire-side, and the lentisks, and other shrubs which grow there, suffice for the wants of cookery. On the whole, NIO is a very agreeable and quiet place of residence.

I happened to be there on the day when the Greeks celebrate, in the spring, the festival of ST. GREGORY, a festival that they consecrate, in a manner, to cock-roaches, disgusting and troublesome insects, which are very common in these countries during the summer*. The day before, every family ought to have laid in their stock of water and herbs; were any to be brought in on that day, it would be imagined that the house would be filled with cock-roaches. This pre-

* *Blatta Orientalis*. LINN. The modern Greeks call it *Katsarida*.

caution is, nevertheless, insufficient for conjuring away those insects: every head of a family must procure two or three of them, which he shuts up in a hollow reed, and throws them into the sea, at the same time uttering a thousand curses. Although long experience has demonstrated the inefficacy of this ceremony and of these imprecations, there is not a single Greek of NIO, and of several other islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, who annually, on such a day, does not observe them scrupulously, though not a year passes without their houses being infested with cock-roaches in the summer: so blind is superstition, when time and ignorance have allowed it to take deep root!

Another precaution full as useless, but which is not, on that account, the less observed by the Greeks of the same islands, is that by which they every year note the day when the festival of ST. JOHN the Baptist falls. They are particularly careful not to undertake any thing the same day of the week, during the whole year, because they are persuaded that a work, a voyage, any business whatever, begun at this period, would infallibly miscarry, or have a very unfortunate issue.

The

The dress of the women of NIO is much the same as that of the women of AMORGOS, and of most of the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO. But at NIO, they do not, as at AMORGOS, conceal part of their handsome face, by an intrusive piece of cloth: their features are entirely exposed to view, their forehead is uncovered, and the shawl, with which their head is enveloped, exhibits a sort of crescent of beautiful black hair, glossy as jet, and soft as silk.

I shall remark, on this occasion, that the size, and consequently the coarseness of the hair, appears to depend on the severity of the climate. Negroes have wool, and I have never seen any where hair so fine as on the head of the greater part of the women of the EAST.

We might make an exception against the garments of the women of NIO, and of the other islands where they are accustomed to wear any of the same description, for not reaching sufficiently low, and being repugnant to decency. Their petticoat, in fact, comes only to the knees; but in this defect of length, which, added to the forms of the other parts of the dress, has something whimsical and grotesque, there is nothing immodest.

dest. If, in our country, the idea of impropriety and effrontery accompanies a woman whose legs are not covered, at least in a great measure, by long garments, it is that the legs, although dressed, are, with our women, immediately connected with parts which are not, and which decency strictly conceals from view. But what it reproves among us, cannot alarm in the East. There, all the women are completely clothed; they all wear drawers, which permit them not to embarrass their legs by long petticoats.

The Turkish women, and the female Greeks of the large towns, make use of long and ample drawers, which come down to their heels; they even wear them double: the under pair is of linen or cotton, and that which appears is of linen or silk. The drawers of the women of the ARCHIPELAGO are plain, short, and, most commonly, made of cotton. Like those of the Turkish women, and rich female inhabitants of the cities and towns, they are in like manner confined, above the hips, by a girdle of knit silk or cotton, passed through a noose, and fastened in front by a long running knot: they are also very ample; but they do not reach beyond the knee, under which they are confined with strings that are covered

covered by the stockings. The women are in the habit of tying these strings so tight, at the top of the calf of the leg, that their impression becomes sufficiently deep and broad to admit the finger. This custom of clothing themselves more completely has, methinks, great advantages for the health of the women: adopted by ours, it would save them from a crowd of disorders, which may very probably have no other cause than their having neglected it, and by this, decency would, doubtless, be no loser.

The garments of the women of the Island of SANTORIN have more regularity, and are longer, than those of which I have just spoken; their head is covered by a rolled shawl, twisted in the form of a turban, and which, most commonly, passes under the chin. Their principal occupation is to spin cotton, which grows very well in that country, and serves for the manufacture of cloths, known in the LEVANT by the names of dimities and *escamites*, an important branch of industry, and the principal trade of that famous island.

It is well known that SANTORIN, formerly *THERA*, and more anciently *CALLISTA*, a word which signifies the *Handsome*, has experienced singular changes from the effect of subterranean

neous fires. Emerged from the bosom of the sea, it was afterwards partly swallowed up in the year 237 before the Christian era, and separated from *THERASIA*, a small island at this day called *ASPRONISI*. The space contained between those two islands, and at present filled by the sea, made, according to the well-founded opinion of a judicious observer*, a part of *THERA*, or of the large island, which, at the time of this revolution, assumed the form of a crescent. Indeed, the coast of that gulf, composed of steep rocks, black, calcined, and towering upwards of three hundred feet above the level of the sea, appears to be the edge of an enormous crater, the bottom of which has never been fathomed.

Several other revolutions happened successively in the same place; and the terrifying scenes of the great convulsions of Nature have been renewed there repeatedly: an earthquake was felt forty years after the Islands of *THERA* and *THERASIA* were separated. The waters boiled up, and a new island rose above the sea, and all at once

* M. DE CHOISEUL-GOUFFIER, *Voyage Pittoresque de Grèce*, vol. i. pages 322 and 323.

presented itself to the eyes of astonished navigators*. This little island was called *KIERA*, sacred, no doubt, on account of its origin, which bordered on a prodigy, and which occasioned it to be consecrated to the god of hell. The nature of the calcined substances of which it is formed has since obtained it the name of *KAMMENI*, or the *Burnt Island*.

Subterraneous commotions, convulsions, and other phenomena, terrified the men of these countries, at different times, and produced on the land changes more or less considerable, till the year 1743, when another island suddenly appeared above the surface of the waters. In order to distinguish it from the former, which is the larger, the Greeks have named it *MICRI KAMMENI*, or the *Little Burnt Island*.

Lastly, at the beginning of the century which has just elapsed, a new islet appeared between the Great and the Little *KAMMENI*, about a league from *SANTORIN*. It was on the 23rd of May, 1707, at break of day, that were perceived the commencements of

* JUSTIN. book xxx. chap. iv. *note*, that PLINY (Hist. Nat. lib. ii. cap. lxxxvii.) says, improperly, that this event took place one hundred and thirty years after that which gave birth to the Isle of *Therasia*.

this other production of the subterraneous fires which burn in these parts. On the 18th of the same month, there had been felt at SANTORIN two slight shocks of an earthquake. No great attention was paid to them at the time; but, in the sequel, there was reason to suppose that, at that moment, the new islet was beginning to detach itself from the bottom of the sea, and to rise towards its surface. Be this as it may, some Greeks belonging to SANTORIN having, very early in the morning, seen the first points of the growing island, imagined that these might be the remains of some shipwreck, which the sea had brought during the night. In hopes of being the first to avail themselves of them, they hastened to reach them; but, no sooner had they discovered that, in lieu of pieces of a floating wreck, these were black and calcined rocks, than they returned, quite frightened, publishing every where what they had just seen.

The fright was general in the whole Island of SANTORIN; it was well known there that these sudden appearances of new lands had always been attended by great disasters. Nevertheless, two or three days having passed without any thing fatal happening, some of the

the inhabitants of SANTORIN came to a resolution of making observations on the very spot. Having landed, curiosity induced them to proceed from rock to rock; they found every where a sort of white stone which might be cut like bread, and which so well imitated it in figure, colour, and consistency, that, with the exception of the taste, it might have been taken for real wheaten bread. What pleased them and astonished them more, was a quantity of fresh oysters adhering to the rocks, a circumstance very uncommon at SANTORIN. While these Greeks were amusing themselves with eating the oysters, they all at once felt the rocks move, and the ground tremble under their feet; terror soon made them abandon their repast, in order to jump into their boat, and row away as hard as they could pull. This shock was a motion of the island, which was increasing, and which, at that moment, visibly rose, having, in a very few days, gained near twenty feet in height, and twice as much in breadth.

As this motion, by which the new island was daily becoming higher and broader, was not always equal, accordingly it did not increase every day equally on all sides. It even frequently happened that it fell and diminished

in one place, while it rose and spread in another. One day, in particular, a rock very remarkable from its size and figure, having issued from the sea, forty or fifty paces from the middle of the island, sunk at the expiration of four days into the water, and appeared no more. This was not the case with some other rocks which, after having made their appearance, and concealed themselves at various times, at length re-appeared and remained fixed. These different commotions violently shook the Little KAMMENI, and, on its summit, was remarked a long fissure, which had not been seen there before. During this time, the sea of the gulf several times changed its colour; it first became of a dazzling green, then of a reddish hue, and at last of a pale yellow, and constantly emitted a great stench.

On the 16th of July, smoke was seen, for the first time, to issue, not from the part of the island that appeared, but from a chain of black rocks, which rose all on a sudden sixty yards from that spot, and from a part of the sea where no bottom had been found; this, for some time, formed as it were two separate islands, one of which was called the *White Island*, and the other, the *Black Island*, on account of their different colour; but which
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ere long were again united to each other, yet in such a manner that those black rocks which last sprang up became the centre of the whole island. The smoke which issued from the chain of black rocks was thick and whitish, like that which issues from several lime-kilns thrown into one. The wind carried it over one of the habitations situated at the extremity of the gulf, and it did not there occasion much inconvenience: its smell too was not particularly obnoxious.

In the night between the 19th and 20th, flames of fire were seen to rise from the middle of this smoke, which caused the inhabitants of SANTORIN great apprehension. This fire, nevertheless, was also little to be feared, since it issued only from a single point of the Black Island, and did not appear at all during the day.

Neither fire nor smoke was ever seen on the White Island; yet, notwithstanding, it continued constantly to grow larger; but the Black Island increased far more quickly. Every day were seen to arise big rocks, which one while rendered it longer, another while broader; and this in so perceptible a manner, that it was noticed from one moment to another. Sometimes these rocks were joined to

the island, sometimes they were very remote from it; so that in less than a month were reckoned as many as four little black islands, which, in four days, were united to each other, and then formed but one. It was likewise remarked that the smoke had greatly increased, and that, no wind blowing at the time, it ascended so high that it was seen from CANDIA, from NAXIA, and from other distant islands. During the night, this smoke always appeared fiery to the height of fifteen or twenty feet, and the sea was covered with a reddish substance or froth in some places, and yellowish in others. So great a degree of putrefaction spread through all SANTORIN, that the inhabitants were obliged to burn perfumes, and to kindle fires in the streets. This infection lasted only a day and a half. A very fresh south-west wind dispelled it; but in driving away one evil, it introduced another. It carried this burning smoke over a great part of the best vineyards of SANTORIN, the grapes of which were almost ripe, and which, in one night, were all scorched. It was likewise remarked, that wherever this smoke was carried, it blackened silver and copper, and occasioned the inhabitants violent head-aches, accompanied by strong

strong nausea. At that time, the White Island settled and sunk all at once upwards of ten feet.

On the 31st of July, it was discovered that the sea cast forth smoke and boiled up in two places, the one at thirty, and the other at sixty yards from the Black Island. In these two spaces, each of which formed a perfect circle, the water appeared like oil on the fire. This lasted upwards of a month, during which were found a great many dead fishes.

The following night was heard a hollow noise, like the report of several cannon fired at a distance; and almost immediately issued from the middle of the crater two long sheets of fire, which ascended very high, and were directly extinguished.

On the 1st of August, the same hollow noise was heard repeatedly. It was followed by a smoke, not white as before, but of a bluish black, and which, notwithstanding a very fresh northerly wind, rose in the form of a pillar to a prodigious elevation.

On the 7th of August, the noise which was heard was no longer so hollow: it was similar to that of several large heaps of stones falling all at once into a deep well. The extremities of the island were thought to be in continual motion,

motion, and the rocks which formed them coming and going, disappearing and then re-appearing. This noise, after having lasted several days, changed into another considerably louder. It resembled thunder in such a manner, that, when it really thundered, which happened three or four times, there was no great difference between the one and the other.

On the 21st of August, the fire and smoke diminished considerably. There even appeared but very little during the night; but, at break of day, they resumed more strength than they had before possessed. The smoke was red and very thick, and the fire which issued was so fierce, that the sea round the Black Island smoked and boiled up in a surprising manner.

On the morning of the 22d, the island was become much higher than it was the day before. A chain of rocks, of nearly fifty feet, had greatly increased its breadth. The sea was again covered with that reddish foam already mentioned, which emitted every where an intolerable stench.

On the 5th of September, the fire opened itself a passage at the extremity of the Black Island, at the same time inclining towards

THERASIA.

THERASIA. The fire issued thence for some days only, during which less came out of the great crater.

Had the inquietude, with which every one was affected night and day, then allowed of the inhabitants of SANTORIN being alive to any diversion, the sight which they then enjoyed would have been entertaining. Thrice there arose from the great crater, as it were, three of the largest sky-rockets of a fire the most brilliant and the most beautiful. On the following nights it was quite another thing. After the usual reports of the subterraneous thunder, all at once were seen going off, as it were, long sheaves sparkling with a million of lights, which, following each other, ascended to a very great height, then fell again in showers of stars on the island, which thence appeared quite illuminated. This spectacle was a little disturbed by a new phenomenon. From the middle of these sky-rockets, there became detached a very long lance of fire, which, after having remained some time motionless over the castle of SCARO, was lost in the clouds.

On the 9th of September, the two islands, the White Island and the Black one, by dint of increasing each in breadth, began to meet
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and to form but one body. After this junction, the extremity of the island to the south-west increased no more either in length or height; whereas the other extremity to the west did not cease to lengthen very perceptibly.

Of all the openings, there were now but four which emitted any fire. Sometimes the smoke issued with impetuosity from all together, sometimes only from one or two; one while with noise, another without, but almost always with a whistling, which might have been taken for the various sounds of the pipes of an organ, and sometimes for the howling of wild beasts.

On the 12th of September, the subterraneous noise, which naturally seemed likely to be no longer so violent, having to spread between four openings, was never so frightful; nor so frequent as on that day and the following. The loud and repeated claps, similar to the general discharge of a numerous and heavy train of artillery, were heard ten or twelve times in the course of twenty-four hours; and, a moment after, there issued from the great crater stones of an enormous size, quite red hot, which were thrown to a great distance, and lost in the sea. These loud claps
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were always accompanied by a thick smoke, which flew up into the air in undulating figures, and which, when it dispersed, spread every where big clouds of ashes, some of which were carried in eddies as far as ANASI, an island twenty-five miles distant from SANTORIN. These ashes appeared white on the Black Island, and almost black on the White one; they had the figure and the grain of fine powder; but, thrown into the fire, they produced only a few slight crepitations, without emitting the smallest flame.

On the 18th of September, there was at SANTORIN an earthquake which occasioned no damage. The island was considerably increased by it, as well as the fire and smoke, which, on that day and the following night, opened to themselves new passages. Till then, so many fires together had not been seen, nor had such loud reports been heard: their violence was so extraordinary, that the houses of SCARO were shaken by it. Through thick volumes of smoke, which appeared like a mountain, was heard the loud noise of an infinite number of huge stones, which whizzed in the air like large cannon-balls, and fell afterwards on the island and into the sea, with a crash which made all who heard it shudder.

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The Little KAMMENI was several times covered with these burning stones, which rendered it quite resplendent.

On the 21st of September, the little KAMMENI being thus quite in a blaze, after one of those furious shocks just mentioned, there thence arose three large flashes of lightning, which, in the twinkling of an eye, traversed all the horizon of the sea. At the same instant, there occurred so great a shaking of the whole new island, that the half of its great crater fell in, and there were huge burning stones, of a prodigious mass, which were driven to the distance of upwards of two miles. It was thought that this violent and last effort had at length exhausted the mine. Four days of calm and tranquillity, during which was seen no appearance of fire and smoke, contributed not a little to strengthen this idea; but the inhabitants had not, as they had imagined, as yet witnessed the most alarming period.

On the 24th of September, the fire resumed all its strength, and the island became more formidable than ever. Among the claps, almost continual, and which were so violent that two persons, speaking to each other, could with difficulty make themselves heard, there suddenly

suddenly occurred one so dreadful, that it made every body run to the churches. The big rock, on which SCARRO is built, tottered, and all the doors of the houses were forcibly thrown open.

Every thing continued in the same state during the months of October, November, and December 1707, and January 1708. Not a day passed without the great crater making an explosion at least once or twice, and most frequently five or six times.

On the 10th of February 1708, about eight o'clock in the morning, there was at SANTORIN a rather violent shock of an earthquake. In the course of the night, there had been one much slier, which induced the opinion, from the experience of the past, that the volcano was again preparing some terrible scene. It was not long in coming. Fire, flame, smoke, reports the most terrific, all was horrible. Large rocks of a frightful mass, which till then had appeared only even with the water's edge, rose very high; and the boiling up of the sea increased to such an excess, that although the spectators were accustomed to all this uproar, there was no one who was not struck with horror. The subterraneous roarings no longer came by inter-

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vals; they lasted day and night without intermission. The great crater burst even five or six times in a quarter of an hour, and gave reports which, from their repetition, from the quantity and the bigness of the stones that flew about, from the shaking of the houses, and from the great fire that appeared in open day, which had not yet been seen, surpassed every thing that had preceded.

The 15th of April was remarkable, among all the other days, from the number and the fury of those terrible shocks; so that, for a long time, seeing nothing but fire, fiery smoke, and large pieces of rock, which filled the air, all the inhabitants of SANTORIN thought that it was all over, and that the island was blown up. Yet no such thing had occurred, and there was but the half of the circumference of the great crater which had fallen in once more, and which, in an instant, again became higher than it was, by the heap of ashes and big stones by which it was repaired.

From that day till the 23d of May, which was the anniversary of the birth of the island, every thing continued nearly on the same footing. What was particularly remarked, was, that the island constantly increased in height, and scarcely increased any more in

breadth. The great opening or large crater rose very high; and from the melted substances which cemented its fabric, was gradually formed, as it were, a great pasty, with a very broad slope.

In the sequel, every thing became still by degrees. The fire and smoke diminished, the subterraneous thunder became tolerable, and its bursts, though still frequent, were no longer so frightful.

On the 15th of July, the day being fine, the sea calm, and the fire very moderate, some persons belonging to SANTORIN wished to have a near view of the new island. They took care to provide themselves with a boat well caulked, and whose seams were filled with oakum strongly cinced. They went straight to that side of the island where the sea did not boil up, but where it smoked very much. Scarcely had the inquisitive party reached this smoke, than they all felt a suffocating heat, which affected them. They put their hands into the water, and found it scalding; they were as yet, however, only within five hundred yards of the land. There not being a probability of their proceeding farther that way, they turned towards the point most distant from the great crater, and at which the island had

had constantly increased in length. The fire, which was still there, and the sea, which boiled up with fury, obliged them to take a long circuit; even yet they felt a violent heat. They landed on the Great KAMMENI, whence they had the convenience of examining, without much danger, all the real length of the island, and particularly the side which they had not been able to see from SCARO. The island, with respect to its oblong figure, might probably then be two hundred feet in its greatest height, a mile and upwards in its greatest breadth, and about five miles in circumference.

After this examination, the observers again felt a strong desire to approach the island, and to attempt once more to land there, at the place called, for a long time, the *White Island*. For several months this place had no longer increased, and never, during that time, had either fire or smoke been remarked. When they were within two hundred yards of it, they perceived that, by dipping the hand into the water, the more they approached, the warmer it became. They hove the lead; all the line, which was ninety-five fathoms long, was employed, without finding any bottom. They were within two hundred yards of the island,

island, and while they were deliberating whether they should advance farther, or turn back, the great crater began to play with its usual crash and impetuosity. The wind, which was fresh, carried over the boat the thick cloud of ashes and smoke which thence issued; the persons who were in it were quite covered with these, which made them think of rowing off very quickly, and also very opportunely; for they were scarcely a mile and a half from the island, before the hurly-burly soon recommenced, and the crater threw into the place which they had just quitted a quantity of fiery stones. On arriving at SANTORIN, it was discovered that the great heat of the water had melted almost all the pitch from the seams of the boat, which began to open on all sides.

Till the 15th of August, of the same year, 1708, the island vomited fire, smoke, and burning stones, always with a great noise, yet less than that of the preceding months.

This account of a judicious eye-witness, on the subject of a very extraordinary event, which happened in our time, has appeared to me too interesting not to be related almost from beginning to end, with the more reason, as it is to be found only in a rather scarce collection, entitled “*Les Mémoires des Missions*

“ *de la Compagnie de Jésus dans le Levant**.”

After the author of the account had quitted SANTORIN, the new island risen from the sea in the gulf, between the Great and the Little KAMMENI, continued for a long time to cast forth flames, a thick smoke, and large masses of stones. But the explosions successively became less frequent and less violent; they at length ceased, and nothing more was heard but the hollow noise of the boiling up of the substances which the subterraneous fires keep in fusion, at an immense depth, in the bowels of the earth.

The volcano is at present in a state of inaction, at least externally; the small island is quiet, but its aspect has still something frightful. At a distance, it appears quite black; if you approach it, you there find the medley of substances decomposed by fire and fallen again confusedly, after having been driven into the air with a crash; it is surrounded by torrents of sulphur; every thing there is burnt or calcined; every thing there bears the impression of those terrible conflagrations, with which Nature has burnt the very

* Vol. i. pages 126 and following.

bosom of the globe; every thing there re-traces the presage of fresh catastrophes, of fresh eruptions.

Symptoms so frightful, convulsions so violent, which nothing can resist, and which mock the power and the precautions of mankind, were, doubtless, sufficient to strike the superstitious and weak imagination of the Greeks. The new island is in their eyes the work of hell; demons have there established their abode; they there set up a dreadful uproar; and, impelled by a diabolical malignity, they make a pastime of letting go the cables of vessels which mariners have the temerity to make fast to it. The Greek bishop of SANTORIN goes thither sometimes, to display the power of exorcism; and though the noise does not discontinue, and vessels and boats are as frequently set adrift, the prelate enjoys the satisfaction of seeing his credulous flock thoroughly convinced of the efficacy of his pious ceremonies.

But this uproar, which holy water cannot appease, is owing to the very nature of the new island. It is sometimes the hollow and deep roaring of the volcano, and almost always the shock of the waves against the partitions of cavities entirely formed of calcined and

sonorous rocks. The piercing cry of mews, gulls, and other birds which there take refuge, on the approach of any new object, are blended with sounds loud and mournful, because they issue from deep caverns; and this discordance of grave and sharp tones forms, indeed, an uproar worthy of hell itself, which, nevertheless, has no more to do with it than with the cables of the vessels, that lose their hold from a cause equally simple and equally natural. In fact, the prominent points, which present greater facility for making fast to them the moorings, belong to rocks burnt and of no great consistency, which the motion of the vessel causes to break easily, as soon as she is agitated by the wind or waves.

The new island is about a league in circumference. All round, but very close to it, the depth of water is from thirty to thirty-five fathoms: farther off, no bottom is to be found. From the rocks of the island is frequently detached a quantity of fragments of pumice-stone, which, floating on the surface of the sea, are driven on the coasts of the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, where I have seen several of them cast on shore, being swept away by the winds. The quantity of these light productions of volcanoes, thrown up by the new island,

island, was so considerable during the beginning of its astonishing appearance, that the sea of the ARCHIPELAGO was covered with them, and several harbours were choked up up to such a degree, that no vessel, however small, could get out, unless a passage were cleared for her by means of poles*.

Mould, or vegetable earth, does not yet cover, in any place, a calcined soil, whose superficies has been exposed to the air and the rains only for too short a time past to be decomposed by these agents, so active, but as slow as those of its formation were quick and impetuous. The Little KAMMENI, where are seen six craters by which the volcano vomited forth the substances that compose it, is equally naked and barren; but the Great KAMMENI, more ancient, is covered with a thin stratum of a dust, which allows a few herbs to grow in it. The Isle of *ASPRONISI*, the *THERASIA* of the ancients, is clothed with verdure, and on it are seen a few trees thinly scattered.

In these seas, the theatre of the most surprising operations of Nature, we must expect

* See THEVENOT, *Relation d'un Voyage au Levant*, 4to. chap. lxxviii. page 204.

new catastrophes, as well as the sudden appearance of new lands. A shoal, the foundation of an island, gains in height from day to day. Not a hundred years since there were on it eighteen fathoms water; when I visited these parts, there were no more than five or six; and this ground, in all probability, has since risen much more.

Lands, resting on numerous cavities, the walls of which are desiccated and without consistency, which gulfs, where a terrible and lasting fire is kept up, undermine and consume, are necessarily exposed to commotions and convulsions; and these shocks are sometimes felt at sea, at a rather considerable distance from the islands. An officer of the navy, very worthy of credit, who, in 1775, commanded the *HIRONDELLE* vessel of war, related to me, that, being at sea pretty well in with the Island of SANTORIN, and to the west of it, he experienced, during the night, very violent effects of an earthquake. The mass of the waters was so shaken by it, that the vessel received some very violent shocks, which spread an alarm among the crew, and made them suppose that she had struck on a sunken rock. The animals contained in the ship, sheep, dogs, and poultry, began at the same time to cry in
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an extraordinary manner, and, by their agitation and their clamours, manifested that they partook of the terror by which the men were struck.

However, earthquakes are less frequent at SANTORIN, in our time, than they were at the periods when the volcanoes displayed the terrible activity of their subterraneous fires; those great phenomena of Nature no longer spread terror there but at remote intervals. We are ignorant at what epoch the island dropped the name of *CALLISTE*, in order to assume that of *THERA*, or at what time it began to be called *SANT ERINI*, from the name of ST. IRENA, the patroness of the island. Of *SANT ERINI* has been made SANTORIN. Be this as it may, if in former times this country deserved the name of *CALLISTE*, the *Beautiful Island*, we may at this day give it, with full as good reason, that of hideous. On all sides, is seen there the action of volcanoes; every thing is consumed by fire, calcined, thrown out, and heaped up in horrible confusion. Enormous masses of burnt rocks, of a blackish gray, inaccessible, and scarcely to be approached, surround it towards the sea; at their foot are bottomless gulfs; in the interior, lava, pumice-stones, pozzolana, every

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volcanic

volcanic substance there forms the soil: no woods, no rivers, no rivulets; it is an appendage which fire seems to have condemned to an eternal aridity.

We should not, indeed, expect to meet with fertile districts amidst all the elements of sterility. Corn of various species grows very well on strata of ashes and pumice-stones; cotton thrives there equally well; fruit-trees there take root, and diffuse some agreeableness; in short, beautiful vineyards there produce wines much esteemed, but sulphurous, which, with cotton and the fine calicoes that are there manufactured, render SANTORIN one of the most trading islands in the ARCHIPELAGO. At the time when TOURNEFORT travelled, the French had a consul there; but he has been withdrawn with the trade which they carried on at this island. Two bishops, one of the Greek church, and the other of the Latin, guide their respective flocks, at the same time harassing each other incessantly, and disputing on matters which the one understands no better than the other. FRANCE maintained there Jesuits and Capuchins, who scarcely agreed better than the bishops.

The inhabitants have no other water than that of cisterns: it is also in this calcined
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rock, of a consistence so slight, that they build or rather excavate their houses, the greater part of which have an arched roof. SANTORIN, without being precisely an unwholesome place of residence, is not exempt from dangers. The volcanic vapours which are there inhaled, affect the health, and those who remain long exposed to them, are subject to consumptive complaints.

On the south part of SANTORIN was built, on the summit of a mountain, called in our days *St. Stephen's Mountain*, a flourishing town, the capital of the island, whose name of *THERA* it bore. Its ruins still attest its ancient magnificence. Here was a temple dedicated to NEPTUNE, and another to APOLLO, to whom the whole island was consecrated. TOURNEFORT mentions some inscriptions of *THERA**, and CHOISEUL-GOUFFIER gives the drawings of fragments of superb monuments, and, in particular, of two large statues, which are spoken of in the inscriptions, and which the people of *THERA* had erected in honour of the Emperors MARCUS AURELIUS and ANTONINUS. These statues, of tolerably handsome execution, are in marble, but at

* *Voyage au Levant*, vol. i. page 272.

present are headless*, and lying on the ground.

A singular custom, which is not to be met with in the history of any other people, was established at THERA. They neither mourned for children who died before seven years of age, nor for men who died turned of fifty; the latter, because they had probably lived long enough; and the former, because it was not thought that they had yet entered into life†.

The most agreeable place in SANTORIN is PYRGOS, a small town built on a little hill, whence is discovered the two seas, and the most beautiful districts of the island. At the foot of this hill is a cove, fit only for the reception of the boats of the country, and indeed they are not there always in safety; for when the wind and the sea rise and are agitated, they are forced to abandon it, and gain a small bay, more sheltered and more safe, to the northward of Cape APANOMERIA, and under another small town which bears the name of SAN NICOLO. The latter is situated on a

* *Voyage Pittoresque de la Grèce*, vol. i. page 37, and plate XLIX.

† *Idem, ibid.*

lofty eminence, formed of enormous groups of burnt rocks, standing perpendicular on the margin of the abyss of the sea, and threatening to engulf themselves there with the inhabitants, who have established their residence on a base so unsubstantial, and whose aspect inspires horror.

Between SAN NICOLO and PYRGOS, at the extremity of the horse-shoe which the Island of SANTORIN forms to the west, and on a point which projects towards the KAMMENI Islands, stands the castle of SCARO, whose situation is still more frightful than that of SAN NICOLO. The rocks of this narrow cape are likewise calcined, but higher and more shattered than in any place on the coast; so that SCARO appears half-suspended above horrible precipices which terminate at the sea; while a part of these same rocks, almost reduced to ashes, overlooks the little town on one side, and threatens every moment to crush it.

PYRGOS, SAN NICOLO, and SCARO, are the only three places of any consequence in the Isle of SANTORIN: there are some villages in the interior, and the whole population, assembled, may form a mass of eight or ten thousand inhabitants, industrious and active;

but, like their bishops, frequently divided by religious opinions, and exasperated against each other, some being catholics, and others declared heretics; all very credulous, very headstrong in matters of theology, and endeavouring continually to extend their creed and their domination, at the expense of their adversaries.

The inhabitants of SANTORIN share, with those of a great number of other islands, the advantage of having no Turks among them. Their coasts affording no harbours and places for anchoring, they are not frequented by ships of war belonging to the Ottoman navy, and scarcely ever by corsairs. In paying the tribute which is exacted from them, they are less tormented than many other islanders, and they can give themselves up, with greater safety and tranquillity, to the labours of culture and the concerns of their traffic.

These industrious Greeks were so fully sensible of the value of this sort of liberty, acquired by the situation of their island, that they employed, within these few years, every means imaginable to prevail on two learned travellers, OLIVIER and BRUGUIÈRE, not to abandon them to the barbarous fiscal power of the Turks, by causing to be worked in
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their island the *pozzolana*, of excellent quality, which is there to be found in abundance, and which was intended for constructing, in the harbour of CONSTANTINOPLE, a basin on the plan of that of TOULON*. No doubt, very commendable motives of public interest and personal generosity determined those learned travellers to reject the offers of the Greeks of SANTORIN, as they had before refused the proposals, very advantageous, but of another kind, made to them by some Armenians. In this, as in many other circumstances, the laws of humanity could not tally with the rules of policy. Officers belonging to the Ottoman Porte came into the midst of the inhabitants of SANTORIN, to employ violence and injustice, for the purpose of taking them from peaceable and profitable labours, and of compelling them to extract the volcanic substance, the beginning of a local tyranny, which, till then, they had had the happiness to

* Report of Travels performed, by order of the government, in the *Ottoman Empire, Egypt, and Persia*, during the first six years of the Republic, read to the National Institute by Citizen OLIVIER, associated member, in the sitting of the 26th Pluvoise.—*Magazin Encyclop.* fourth year, vol. vi. No. xxii. page 196.

avoid, and of a lasting hatred against the French, whom they will long consider as the authors of their misfortune.

The Isle of SANTORIN is by no means broad, and may be estimated at seven or eight leagues in circuit. From the top of its mountains is discovered the Island of CANDIA, which is distant from it about eighteen leagues. Two leagues to the south-west of SANTORIN, lie two islets, little known, because they are altogether uninteresting, and respecting which it was not in my power to procure any information. They are named the *Great* and the *Little CHRISTIANA*.

CHAPTER XVI.

Island of Candia.—Advantages of its position.—Peculiar direction in which it lies, and conjectures respecting its formation.—Canea.—Savary.—His abilities, his character, his amiableness.—French consuls at Canea.—The Author meets with one of his countrywomen.—Olive-oil.—Capuchin.—Provençal renegado.—Janizary.—Greek monks.

THRICE have I visited the Island of CANDIA; thrice have I landed on the shores of that famous country, which, under the name of CRETE, was rendered illustrious by the institutions of MINOS, the hundred cities which it contained, and the courage of its inhabitants; which, in times less remote, became the magnificent domain of the Republic of VENICE, and the theatre of the signal valour of its armies; and which at length shares the common lot of misfortune attached to every country

country subject to the monstrous domination of the Ottomans.

My first visit to this island was in the *ATALANTE* frigate, on board of which I sailed to *EGYPT*; the polacre in which I embarked at *ALEXANDRIA* landed me there a second time; and I returned thither once more in the *MIGNONNE*, another frigate, commanded by *D'ENTRECASTEAUX*. I have availed myself of the stay, more or less long, which I made there: and, without dwelling on the periods of these different voyages, or subjecting myself to give distinct details of them, I shall compress into one single point the remarks which I collected at these different periods.

The Island of *CANDIA* is the largest in the *MEDITERRANEAN*, of which its position seems to insure it the empire and the commerce. It is, in fact, at no great distance from *AFRICA*, *ASIA*, and *EUROPE*: some of its harbours are equally good and spacious; it would be an easy matter to prepare there expeditions for the three quarters of the globe. Its inhabitants are numerous and active; the very diversified productions of its territory possess the qualities calculated to bring them into request; the nature of its soil, the mildness of its climate, promise comfort and agreeableness;

ableness; and this country might be again, as in very ancient times, the *Island of the blessed**, if the laws of MINOS, which HOMER considered as emanating from JUPITER himself†, could once more govern a people, whose ancient greatness has been effaced under the impression of a disgraceful servitude.

Like the greater part of the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, this is much longer than broad; it is reckoned to be two hundred leagues in circumference; it is partly situated under the 35th degree of latitude, and is comprised between the 24th and 27th degrees of longitude‡. But what has hitherto escaped remark, but which, nevertheless, is an important observation, is, that all the other islands of the same sea lie, with respect to their length, in a north and south direction, with more or less inclination towards the east or west; whereas the Island of CANDIA extends from east to west; it appears to be a long base, on which the whole ARCHIPELAGO reposes. This peculiar direction indicates a different

* *Macarion nēfos*.—Vide PLIN. Hist. Nat. lib. iv. cap. xviii.

† *Odyssey*, book xix.

‡ From the meridian of *Greenwich*.

origin. The islands of the ÆGEAN SEA are the summits of mountains, which belong to a country whose plains have been submerged by a sudden irruption of the waters of the BLACK SEA. The effects of this vast submerſion are discoverable in the form of the maſſes which it has ſuffered to ſubſiſt, and which have all preſerved a direction parallel to the current that has inſulated them, and whoſe impetuofity has been broken againſt the Iſland of CANDIA, on which it has been unable to make any impreſſion. May it not be ſuppoſed that theſe very waters, of a rapidity ſo violent, and a part of which was directed towards the ſouth-eaſt, repelled by the lands of SYRIA, may have exerciſed their action in a direction contrary to their firſt impulſe, and have detached from AFRICA the Iſland of CANDIA, by inundating the low lands by which they were united? And this conjecture of the ancient junction of CANDIA with the coaſt of BARBARY acquires an additional degree of probability, when we pay attention to the ſhallowneſs of the channel which ſeparates them, and whoſe bottom every where affords foundings.

However it may be in regard to theſe hypotheſes, which I offer with diffidence, the
Iſland

Island of CANDIA has also another affinity to the other islands of this same part of the MEDITERRANEAN: a chain of mountains traverses it in its length; but its territory is the most hilly of all.

In coming from the west, the first land discovered is a point stretching very far into the sea, and which, on that account, is called Cape *SPADA*, anciently the promontory of *PSACUM*. This long point forms, with Cape *MELECCA* or *MELEK*, which our navigators call *MÉLIER*, formerly *CIAMUM*, a large bay, at the head of which lie the harbour and the town of CANEA. It is an opinion, rather generally received, that it is built on the site of *CYDONIA* or *CYDON*, a flourishing city of ancient CRETE. No vestige of ancient edifices is there to be perceived; and it is only from what historians and geographers have transmitted to us on the subject, that we determine this position.

The modern town has nothing remarkable. The form of its buildings is the same as in all the EAST; that is, that in lieu of roofs, inclined and forming a ridge, they have a flat covering, without tiles or slates, and in the form of a terrace. The greater part have only one story: the streets are laid out by

the line; some are tolerably wide, and fountains flow with an abundant stream in the public squares. SAVARY, who has frequently endeavoured to embellish things the most remote from beauty, speaks of the balconies that adorn the houses by which the harbour is furrounded, and from which, he says, the prospect is delightful*. The view extends, indeed, to a tolerable distance, but only on the gulf formed by Cape MELECCA and Cape SPADA, and this space of sea is often-naked; vessels entering or going out of the harbour not being so frequent as SAVARY seems to intimate. On the other hand, the balcony, whence this traveller discovered a horizon which, in truth, presents nothing charming, because the picture is deficient in points of view and motion, far from adorning the house of the French consul, served rather to disfigure it. It was, in fact, only a wretched circular wooden railing, on which it was hardly safe to stand, and at which ended a flight of steps, or rather a wooden ladder, placed on the outside, in order to form a communication with the upper story, which was the consul's lodging.

* *Lettres sur la Grèce.* See the end of the twenty-ninth Letter.

This rage of lending to objects the most simple a lustre of which they are frequently not susceptible, is perceivable in the letters which SAVARY has written on GREECE, with still more affectation than in his work respecting EGYPT. The reader of them might imagine that he was perusing Oriental tales, Whether the imagination of the author have acquired more ascendancy, through the habit of not being checked; whether, yielding to his passion of painting subjects which it was necessary only to sketch with exactness, it may have become a matter of necessity to him to make them shine with a lustre in which they were deficient; his pencil has too frequently deviated from the original, and his colouring has more than once disguised austere truth. His pictures, besides, however glowing they may be, are often placed unseasonably and in a wrong way. We read, for example, with extreme pleasure, the portrait which, with a light and skilful hand, he draws of two nuns belonging to a convent of Greek women of the environs of CANEA; it is not possible to present, with more art and agreeableness, the contrast of two figures, one of whom united all the charms of youth and beauty, while the other exhibited the deep impression of old

age and decrepitude. But was it worth while to travel into GREECE to compose these portraits, which might, perhaps, pass for portraits of fancy? And in what monastery of our countries have we not seen both old and young nuns exhibiting the same features of disparity and contrast?

But if, as a traveller, SAVARY strays beyond the limits which accuracy has prescribed, he captivates his readers when we consider him as a writer. He possesses, in the highest degree, the talent of feeling, and of making others feel deeply: his descriptions are replete with warmth and life; his style is brilliant, like his imagination; and the exuberance of his fancy is, as it were, only a mistake of his ardent mind, which endeavoured to animate every thing around it, and to diffuse the delightful tints of the feeling by which it was fired.

To these rare and amiable qualities of mind, SAVARY joined a plain and simple exterior; he was endowed with natural beneficence, which made him beloved, as the integrity of his character gained him esteem. His conversation, like all his habits, had nothing studied; he seemed to have reserved the fire of his genius for his writings; and, when one
heard

heard him speak, one did not expect to enjoy so much pleasure in reading him. I had seen him in EGYPT: I met with him again, in 1780, at CANEA. He had followed the fortunes of his worthy and respectable friend, M. DE KERCY, whom, against every appearance of success, M. DE TOTT, appointed by the court inspector-general of the sea-port towns of the LEVANT, had sent to DAMIETTA, in order to exercise there the functions of vice-consul. M. DE KERCY was soon forced to quit so dangerous a post: he came to fill the place of consul at CANEA, where I had great reason to be well satisfied with the polite attentions of two friends, equally commendable from their virtues and their merit; and the lines which I have just consecrated to the memory of one of them, towards whom, whether he may have been praised or blamed, the world have almost always been unjust, are the expression of truth, and of the sentiments with which they have inspired me.

The French consul who resided at CANEA, before M. DE KERCY, was married to a young woman, born in the same place, and in the same district as myself: our families had been for a long time united; and the renewal of

acquaintance, which did not take place till after the expiration of a few days, had something theatrical, but at the same time very agreeable. A man must have passed several years out of his own country, have travelled over very distant and dangerous regions, to experience the gratification arising from the meeting with one of his relations, or persons who remind him of those he loves, as well as of the pleasing habits of the early part of life. I know not whether my young countrywoman found herself happy from a union which Hymen had formed, without having lighted it with his torch, since there existed too great a disparity of age and person, even without having added to it the charms or consolations of fecundity. But some apertures, almost imperceptible, with which the floors, the doors, and the partitions of the apartments, were, if I may so say, pierced like a sieve, led me to think that the eye of jealousy was there on the watch, and that the flag which waved over the consul's house, was not a talisman sufficiently powerful for introducing French confidence, nor for averting the absurd and stern incredulity of the Mussulmans, on the subject of the most interesting

resting attribute of beauty, the fidelity of women.

Several houses of MARSEILLES also maintained factors at CANEA; their principal commerce consisted of a quantity of olive-oil, which the Island of CANDIA furnishes, and which served to supply our soap manufactories. Every year there was made of this article as much as loaded twenty vessels, which were dispatched to FRANCE; and these same vessels brought back to the Turks manufactured soap: but this branch of national industry had lost much of its importance, through the imprudent combinations of some Frenchmen, who had instructed the Turks of CANEA to make soap, and had directed this manufacture.

Besides the consul and the merchants, there was also at CANEA a French Capuchin, who officiated as their chaplain. The house which he occupied in the interior of the town was open to strangers, who there found lodging and board at a very moderate price, and which the obliging friar always left at the disposal of his boarders. I lodged there on my second voyage, and I had every reason to be satisfied with the attentions and the good company of my landlord. He had to serve him, both at
table

table and at the altar, a little Greek belonging to the Isle of CERIGO, who spoke French tolerably well; he had the complaisance to allow this youth to attend me, on my departure from CANEA, that he might serve as my interpreter during the remainder of my travels.

In order to answer the same object, in the various excursions which I made in CANDIA, I took with me a Provençal renegado, a most wretched sailor, who, to escape a just punishment, had pretended to embrace the religion of MAHOMET. He was a gunner at the fort of SUDA, though he had never been employed in the service of the artillery; and, in this new station, he passed for a very skilful person in the eyes of his companions, whose ignorance in gunnery was still much greater. Notwithstanding his pretended abilities, this man lived in a low and even abject state: he was perfectly acquainted with the bulk of the people, in the midst of whom he dragged on his debased existence, and whose confidence he had not found means to gain by adopting their religious principles and habits; he likewise did justice to himself, and truth sometimes escaped him on this subject in a very ingenuous manner. It occurred to him, when

we were travelling, to recommend to me to keep my property always at my elbow—" *Because,*" said he, "*in this country you ought to mistrust every one, and me in particular.*" A confession of such a nature gave me the measure of the confidence which I might have in this wretch: I must, however, acknowledge, that he never robbed nor cheated me, although I did not always take such precautions as the little faith he himself had in his own honesty prompted him to point out to me.

To protect me from all insult, there had been appointed to attend me, when I went out of the town, a janizary, who was, perhaps, the handsomest, the most robust, and the most muscular man that I ever beheld in my life. He might also be reckoned one of the most mischievous. He was the terror of the country-places. Constantly armed from top to toe, on every occasion he made use of his weapons; threats were incessantly in his mouth; and his stern countenance, his large sparkling eyes, his bursts of passion, his stature, and his strength, caused their effects to be dreaded. He treated the Greeks as a servile herd; blows with his stick, or his sabre, were dealt out to them, and even pistols discharged
at

at them, on the smallest resistance. This Turk, who belonged to CANDIA, had been presented to me as a bold and enterprising man, and those who gave him that character were not mistaken: they would have been equally justified in describing him as a dangerous and ungovernable robber. But this fellow, furious towards others, was always very mild with me: he was capable of feeling, that, being in my pay, he was bound to obey me; and never did he fail to do so, at least in every thing in which I was personally concerned. However, this sort of command which I had over him, did not extend so far as to prevent him from using ill the Greeks who happened to be too slow in executing his orders, in the villages where we stopped, nor from making me alight at all the convents which lay near our route, however close they were to each other. He there ordered a collation; caused himself to be served with the best wines, with which he got drunk in spite of MAHOMET; spread confusion and terror through the whole monastery; and did not quit it till after he had gorged himself with meat and drink, in the hope of soon meeting with another halting-place, in order that he might there renew the same orgies

orgies and the same uproar. I carefully concealed myself from him, when I offered to the monks a just indemnification: they did not accept it themselves but with trembling; and they would have been undone, had it been perceived by my impetuous companion. These poor friars pitied me very sincerely for being, as it were, in his hands; and they were at a loss to conceive how I did not also become the victim of his passionate and violent disposition.

If the soul of these monks had not been debased by slavery, with what torments would it not have rent, on recollecting that their nation was formerly celebrated for its power and greatness; on reflecting that, descendants of the valorous Cretans, they had terminated a long career of glory, to become the slaves of a barbarian, and the sport of his brutality! But the habit of misfortune, the grossest ignorance, and the exercise of superstition, have degraded them to such a degree, that we are tempted to cease to pity them, as soon as we are acquainted with their disposition.

CHAPTER XVII.

Excursion to Cape Melecca.—Convent of the Trinity.—Inscription.—Monks of the Trinity.—Their way of life, their table, their habitation, their situation in regard to the Turks.—Comparison between this monastery and those of the Desert of Nitria, in Egypt.—Fowling.—Birds.—Agriculture.—Wheat.—Barley.—Lupins.—Rainy season.

THE wide promontory, known by the name of Cape MELECCA, presenting several objects of curiosity, I failed not to go thither. I made this little excursion on horse-back; the French vice-consul, and three captains of merchant-vessels, at anchor in the harbour of CANEA, wished to be of the party. It was in the month of November. We saw on our route a great many gray wagtails, and a much greater number of thrushes.

At half a day's journey from the town of CANEA stands the convent of the TRINITY,
built

built against a high mountain of arid and accumulated rocks. This ground, gloomy and wild, throws out the luminous parts of the picture, and forms an agreeable contrast with the fields which lie in front. It is a large, cultivated plain, intersected by patches of vines, and half shaded by a quantity of olive-trees, planted at some distance from each other. In the middle of this plain, embellished by the richness of its productions, an avenue of cypress-trees leads to the grand stair-case of the monastery. Other cypresses and orange trees surround it, and form a charming prospect.

The convent is the work of the Venetians, it has the form of a parallelogram, and is extremely well built. The church is in a very good taste, and we see with regret that it has not been finished. Its inside is agreeably decorated. On the portal are two inscriptions, the one in Greek, the other in Latin, almost unintelligible. The following is the Latin inscription, which I have faithfully copied, and which conveys no high idea of the erudition of its author:

PRECLARO ASINVZAN CAROLE, PROSAPIE, HIEREMIAS
SAPIENTISSIMUS ET LAURENTIUS SOLERTISSIMOUS GER-
MANI AMBO SACRIFICI ET INIVGES, MAGNA CUM IM-
PENSA ET ACRIMONIA TALIA GESSERUNT ILLE ENIM
SUFFICIENTER INCEPTI LABOREM IMPENDIT QUE CON-
FECIT

FECIT HONESTE HEVERO PROPAGATOR ILLIUS VOTI
SUPPLEVIT RELIQUUM ET HOC PERPULCHRUM FUNDI-
TUS TEMPLUM INSTAURAVIT.

The names of the two founders of the convent are mentioned in this inscription, of very whimsical Latin; but, at the same time, the essential point is omitted, that is, the date.

All the cells of the convent are far from being occupied. A hundred friars dwelt here formerly; when *TOURNEFORT* arrived, the community was composed of fifty only, and I found here no more than twelve. So rapid a diminution in this tribe of cenobites arises not, as might be imagined, from an indifference towards the monastic state; it is owing to the general depopulation, the usual symptoms of the Turkish government, and which has been felt in the Island of *CANDIA* more forcibly than elsewhere.

This small number of friars is still exposed to the violences of these same Turks, inhabitants of the towns of *CANDIA*, and who have a great roughness in their character. Any degree of affluence, acquired by agriculture, dares not shew itself at the convent of the *TRINITY*. That asylum of men, given up to noble and useful labours, which spread over the earth the treasures and the dress of fecundity, would neither be respected nor spared,
did

did barbarians suspect riches there, or only abundance and a choice of food. Accordingly these monks affect to lead a poor life, and they strictly confine themselves to bare necessaries. The display of wretchedness does not always protect them from the visits and ill usage of their brutal rulers. Passionate and mischievous men come sometimes, and spread terror within the walls of a building which commands respect; and, taking an ungenerous advantage of the sort of infamy that they have attached to the name of Christian, and of the oppressive and shameful slavery to which they have reduced the people whom they have subjugated, and in whom the shadow of resistance would be a capital crime, they exact, with sabres and pistols in their hands, refreshments which it is frequently dangerous to refuse them. A few days prior to my excursion to the TRINITY, two Greek monks belonging to another convent, on the road of RETIMO, were massacred by some Turks, who introduced themselves into the house, during the night, in order to be revenged for a refusal which had been made to them, the day before, of a few cups of coffee.

In these sudden irruptions of robbery, the situation of the superior of the monastery becomes very delicate; but the habit of seeing himself exposed to it, renders it, as it were, familiar. He is seen braving, with coolness, the threats of fiery passion; sometimes employing the language of firmness; sometimes endeavouring to appease by the cringing tone of servility, and almost always succeeding in getting rid of his dangerous guests, by exerting himself to prove to them, that it is impossible that the house, too poor, should possess the means of gratifying their wishes. This singular part, a mixture of dignity and debasement, which frequently lasts several hours, must be very painful; indeed, a man must be a monk and a Greek, to sustain it for so long a period.

Secret recesses, almost impossible to be discovered, conceal from the researches of pecculant avidity the choice provisions, which are thence brought forth only on certain occasions, such as the arrival of some strangers. Visitors of this description are well received; but this good reception is no more than the shadow of decent hospitality; it is interest alone that suggests it to the monks, and they never fail to give notice that no-
thing

thing under their roof is gratuitous: they do not even wait for the effects of generosity, nor for those of a just return of civil behaviour; and, in lieu of relying on the delicacy of their guests, they extort money from them in the most vile and gross manner; so that the duplicity and meanness of their character soon dispels the good opinion which may have been conceived of men estimable under the consideration of industry and labour.

We found in their house a table served with simplicity and neatness; the dishes were abundant, but without seasoning; it was the luxury of frugality. No other viands are here served up than those brought by visitors; and we had provided ourselves with some poultry of the most beautiful species; the hens of CANDIA being, in general, very large, and having on their head a broad tuft of long feathers. But the most delicious fruits were here found in profusion; fresh olives, apples, oranges, whose peel is finer and pulp sweeter than those of MALTA: sweet and perfumed figs here formed a rich and brilliant variety, at the same time that they flattered the smell. Cakes of balmy honey, pure and white as crystal, and the most beautiful in the world, rose in the form of a pyramid in

the middle of this elegant course. The best cheeses, made with the milk of ewes, were at the two ends of the table; and the heady and sweet wine, which was unadulterated, gave birth to gaiety among the guests, and even unknit the gloomy brow of the monks, who, utterly indifferent as to the pleasure of offering us this charming collation, experienced no satisfaction but in thinking of the recompense which they promised themselves for it.

This convent of the TRINITY offers nothing remarkable but its delightful situation. The friars take care to make strangers go down to a little cellar, by no means curious, where they bury their dead. The heads of the two founders, whose names are to be read in the inscription which I have transcribed, are preserved in glazed closets, and the monks shew them with veneration, the consequence of habit rather than of gratitude.

The tyranny of the Turks hangs heavy over this convent in more than one particular, as well as over all the others in the same country. The friars who inhabit them are not allowed to add to the buildings which are constructed there, nor to repair those which are falling into ruins. They have never been able to
succeed

ſucceed in obtaining leave to finiſh their church; and, when they wiſh to make any repairs or embellishments, they wait till a pacha, leſs ſtern or more tractable than they commonly are, comes to command at CANEA; then they eſteem themſelves happy to purchaſe from him, at any price, permiſſion to call in workmen. Thus it was that, a little time before my arrival, they had paid dearly for the right of gilding the ſculpture of the farther end of their church. But theſe labours, although authorized by the governor, muſt be proſecuted with caution. Carried too far, they awaken the cupidity of the Turks, who, conceiving too high an idea of the riches of the friars, would not fail to make them a pretext for freſh extortions. What a monſtrous adminiſtration is that which puniſhes, as a crime, the care of adorning and repairing our dwelling, and in which whatever deſerves the greateſt encouragement is but a ſource of calamity and oppreſſion!

We ſpent two days in this agreeable retreat. Our time glided away in viſiting the beautiful plain, at the extremity of which it is ſituated, in taking the diverſion of ſhooting, and ſtrolling over the hills by which it is bordered: in the evening we re-aſſembled;

the collation was prepared, and the wholesome and delicious dishes of which it was composed, could not, by a painful digestion, disturb the repose to which gentle exercise had inclined us.

When I compared this happy situation to that in which I had found myself, some time before, in the hideous Coptic monasteries of the desert of St. MACARIUS, or of NITRIA, in EGYPT, how charming it appeared to me! There, a fiery climate, moving and hot sands, uncooled by any rain, unfought by any living being, a scarce, harsh and unattractive vegetation, bespeak the languor of Nature. An enclosure of high walls, burning as the soil on which they stand, saddens the mind and terrifies the sight; and when the traveller penetrates into that horrible prison, he there finds only the same nakedness which reigns without; dens, rather than cells, detestable water, lentil bread, and all the marks of the most frightful wretchedness. Here, on the contrary, the temperature is mild; the fertile earth is decked with the richest productions; the prospects are cheerful; here, every thing charms the senses, every thing is good and agreeable, with the exception of the government,

ment, which we love to forget when we are visiting this delightful district.

Our fowling, or, to speak more correctly, our walks, for they were not fatiguing, produced us several species of birds. We procured some red partridges; two woodcocks, extremely lean, and the only ones that we met with; and some turtles, thrushes, and blackbirds, which are in considerable numbers on the olive-trees, whose fruit they eat. We likewise saw a great many larks, collected in numerous flocks in the fields; and, on the olive-trees, chaffinches, titmice, goldfinches, bull-finches, &c. I remarked, that these last-mentioned birds did not assemble several together, like the others; they are seen only in pairs: the male and female follow and keep near to each other; they frequently call each other back, the male by a cry consisting of a sharp sound, followed by two grave sounds, somewhat similar to that given by two little stones struck the one against the other. It is by these last two tones only that the female answers. The bull-finches whistle like the blackbird: means are even found to make them articulate words, after the string of their tongue has been cut.

The natives were beginning to till and sow the lands. A single ploughing preceded the sowing of wheat; and, for barley, they contented themselves with scattering it on the stubble, and then going over it with the plough, as I have seen practised in my own country, even for wheat, by negligent and dilatory cultivators. Here, the furrows were not cut deeply; the farmers did no more than turn up the surface of the ground; and this slight culture, which is followed by plentiful harvests, is a certain indication of the fertility of the soil. On examination, it proves, in fact, to be of the best quality, reddish, and of a good consistence, without being too compact.

This light, but substantial land, is also extremely well adapted to the culture of lupins; whole fields are sown with them. This legume is a very common food with the people of CANDIA. In order to deprive it of the intolerable tartness and bitterness, which prevent its being made use of without dressing, it is put to soak for five or six days in seawater; it is then boiled and eaten, after being stripped of its shell or husk.

Seed-time does not take place in CANDIA till after the early rains, which there commonly

monly begin in October. They happened later in 1778, and none were seen to fall, for the first time of that season, till the 11th of November; and, indeed, the plains were parched up, and the plants died from drought. The early rains are accompanied by storms, boisterous winds, and claps of thunder.

Winter, in the Island of CANDIA, is, properly speaking, no more than a rainy season, during which the sky is more charged with clouds, and the heat less powerful, but never so much as to make it necessary to have recourse to artificial warmth: it is a period more temperate, more wet, but which is by no means rough or unpleasant.

However, the high mountains are covered with snow in this season. On the 18th of November, 1778, the summit of the lofty mountains, which form an amphitheatre behind CANEA, was seen, for the first time, crowned with snow; it remains there till the month of June. It has been observed, that when winter has whitened the ridge of these hills, the north wind, which frequently blows with dangerous impetuosity in the Gulf of CANEA, is no longer felt there with so much violence, because it is stopped, or at least
greatly

greatly moderated, by a light land-breeze, which is termed a *snow-wind*.

A long series of observations has furnished navigators who frequent the harbour of *CANDIA* with a certain mean of ascertaining the state of the atmosphere in the open sea, from the sole inspection of the same chain of mountains which encircles the town to the south. When the clouds collect in heaps above the most prominent of these hills, which bears the name of *CALEPO*, the weather is bad in the offing, and the wind almost always to the northward: navigators then take good care not to quit the harbour. If, on the contrary, the ridge of the mountain is clear and free from vapours, they are certain of finding, without, the wind moderate, and favourable for sailing out of the gulf, and getting clear of the coast.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Caloyers. — Papas. — Their divine service. — Nomination of the chiefs of the Greek church. — Ancient formula of the letters patent for the nomination of the Greek bishops. — Accident. — Convent of St. John. — Another deserted convent of the same name. — Mountains of Cape Melecca. — Catholicos. — Grotto. — Stalactites. — Solitude. — Partridges. — Wild goats. — Grotto of the Bear. — Return to Canea. — A Turk, friend to the French.

CONVENTS are very numerous in GREECE; they are sanctuaries consecrated to ignorance, superstition, and most frequently to sloth. To the monks is given the name of *caloyers*; from *kalos*, good, and from *gèros*, old man, good old man. We are very far, however, from seeing among them none but old men, or even men of a certain age. It is not uncommon to meet with young boys, of from
ten

ten to twelve years old, clothed in the habit, which consists of a plain, long, black gown, confined by a girdle. The variety of the regulations, the medley of the drestes, which strike the traveller, in the different classes of friars spread over the surface of the countries submitted to the Latin church, are not to be remarked among the Greeks; there exists but one order, that of ST. BASIL; and the monks, subjected to the same rule, also wear the same drests.

These friars are very dirty, and, we may add, very ugly, from the habit which they contract of neglecting their exterior, and of neither taking care of their beard nor their hair. Nor are they more to be admired as to interior qualities. Hypocrisy, haughty and gross ignorance, meanness, and treachery, form their character; uninformed as they are, they wish to be reckoned, in the eyes of the people, to possess great knowledge, and to enjoy a reputation for sanctity, which may procure them respect and attention.

Their vows are obedience, chastity, and abstinence. The first and the last of these vows are observed with sufficient exactness: men, born in slavery, are well calculated to stoop under any yoke whatever; and habituated

ated, from infancy, to a hard and miserable life, the greater part of these caloyers being taken only from the lowest class, they easily support both the simplicity of a coarse diet, and the privations imposed on them by the frequent fasts to which they are restricted; although several, it is said, make no scruple to indemnify themselves in private. But it is affirmed, that the second of these vows is not so strictly complied with; and, were they not accused of a degree of brutality, in the infringement of laws which Nature, more powerful than all the institutions of convents, disavows, we should overlook their yielding to an irresistible impulse, an enchanting and inevitable delirium, which occupies and inflames all the senses, and before which human compacts sink and vanish.

The discipline of the Greek church contradicts not, at least by imprudent obligations, these commands of Nature, in regard to her secular clergy, whose members may marry. Every *papas*, that is the name borne by a secular priest, may have a wife, whom he espouses before he receives the priesthood, and whom, in case of death, it is forbidden him to replace by another. The wife of a *papas* is called *papadia*, and she participates in

in the consideration enjoyed by her husband. The Greek girls are ambitious of the honour of being united to ministers of the Divinity; and it is, in general, the youngest and handsomest, who become the wives of men, for the most part, advanced in years, and as dirty and disgusting as the caloyers.

I shall dispense with speaking of the customs and ceremonies of the Greek ritual; these are things too well known, for it to be necessary for me to dwell on them. We should, however, conceive an erroneous idea of the decency of their manner of performing divine service, were we to judge of it from the dignity and majestic gravity of the ceremonies of the Latin church in EUROPE. Every thing in it is little and paltry; every thing in it partakes of the poverty and narrowness of mind of those who officiate; every thing is done with precipitation and irreverence; nothing speaks to the soul and imposes on the senses; nothing in it recalls to mind, that the Creator and the Master of the world is the object of their worship. They stir about a great deal, they chat, they laugh, they are incessantly making inclinations of the body, signs of the cross, which seem to trace a scarf on the breast, because the right hand, carried only

only to the forehead, to the right shoulder, and then to the left shoulder, falls again transversally and with quickness. In their singing is not to be found the melody and gravity of the Gregorian chant; it is monotonous, rapid, graceless, and unimpressive, and it is pronounced in a snuffling and very disagreeable manner.

It is well known, that the Turks have an insurmountable aversion to bells, a consequence of the hatred which they bear to Christians. No Greek church has any, throughout the extent of their domination, and the caloyers make use of semi-circular suspended iron hoops, on which they strike, for the purpose of summoning their congregation to prayers.

The Greek church, which formerly reckoned among its members some men of great talents, and whose voluminous works contain numerous traits of beautiful eloquence, is fallen into the greatest debasement. The place of patriarch, who is her head, is abandoned to intrigue, and put up to auction. Nominated by the court of CONSTANTINOPLE, he is one of its most supple and most cringing courtiers. After having purchased his dignity, he purchases his tranquillity and his influence;

ence; to support himself, he frequently stands in need of squeezing, in his turn, the prelates of his church; and, in order to obtain from them the sums which he requires, he makes use of the arm and the violence of the Turks, who, to the exactions which they take on themselves to levy, add others for their own private emolument. It is not astonishing, that the Turks should have conceived a sovereign contempt for people, who make of their religion an object of speculation, and degrade their character by the most rapacious cupidity. To the sentiment of contempt, so justly merited, is added, among the Mussulmans, inextinguishable hatred against Christians; and this censure is manifested, even in the letters patent, necessary for the investiture of the patriarchate or of a bishopric. Ingenious turns of expression are not spared in it; but long habit, and, perhaps, some shade, less coarse, of barbarism, have blunted the traits of this sort of rage; and the provisions of the Greek church, no longer contain, in our days, the outrageous qualifications with which they were formerly filled.

There was communicated to me, as authentic, the Latin translation of an ancient firman of the PORTE, for the nomination of a Greek

a Greek bishop. It is a sort of bull, extremely whimsical; it was put into my hands at CAIRO, by VENTURE and his father-in-law DIGEON, both French interpreters, or drogouemans, who assured me of the truth of it; but, supposing that some exaggerations have been blended with it, this document gives not the less, on that account, an idea of the debasement of the Greeks, and shews how odious they are to their tyrants; and though these firmans are, at present, less indecorous, we may, from the injurious terms which are there inserted, judge of what they must have been, in fact, at a time when the fanaticism and ferociousness of the Turks were in greater vigour.

The following, I have been told, is the ancient and truly singular protocol, which served for the letters patent of the bishops of the EAST:

Cum infidelium ——— episcopus quidam, nomine ——— fide reprobatus, et moribus dissolutissimis à templo mundi, ad terram immundam transvissset, et nonnullis abhinc annis ipsius anima impura ab infami nido suo ad valles infernales advolasset, negotia vana vaniores episcopatus suspensa remanserunt; omnes ergo infideles, singuli monachi, cuncti patres impiissimi,

piissimi, universi ethnici congregârunt se; atque post varias deliberationes diabolicas, in hoc puncto convenerunt, ipsis nempè episcopum esse absolute necessarium, qui ipsemet reprobatus à Deo, et auxilio divino penitus destitutus, auderet tamen illis auxilia divina ad promittere, qui pessimus ipse, illos etiam ad deteriora indueret, qui errans et hæreticus, per errores et hæreses illos conducere posset, qui denique episcopatus vanas functiones administrando, rectius et tutius ad infernum perduceret. Et ad hoc iidem infideles nobis proposuerunt quemdam ——— exemplar malitiæ, prototypum iniquitatis, satanam in carne et cornibus instructum sataneis, hominum emissarium Belzebuth, et fortasse ipsi superiorem, vilem et abjectum, de quo dicetur à turbis hominum in die iudicii, quando super caput ejus ictus clavarum ferrearum ignearumque sicut grando impluent : Amplius, Domini, amplius.

Cum verò suprâ dictus monachus cujus dotes sufficientur depinximus, ad quem ista charta pertinet, cuique hac solâ vice credatur, omnium sui ordinis monachorum senior, id est, cumulans suos errores pertinaciâ, ignorantiam malitiæ maritans, jejuniis multiplici, vanâ abstinentiâ, sterilibusque mortificationibus se diabolorum corda contriturum arbitratus, vel saltem alios
ad

ad credendum inducens, neque vota sibi imponendo nihil aliud faciens nisi torquem maledictionis collo suo in æternum ligare, religiosus sine religione, et in viâ perditionis securo gradu procedens, quem Deus adæquet die pœnarum et minarum, febrici sudore, purulentâque vulneris gangrenâ vitali materiâ, lucifero diademate cinctus et piceis ornamentis indutus, omnibus infidelibus præsul datus et inventor noxæ hæreseos, episcopus denique nominatus est.

*Datum, &c. &c.**

At

* TRANSLATION.

As the bishop of the infidels of ———, named ———, of reprobate faith and perverse morals, has passed from the temple of this globe into an unclean land, and, for some years past, his impure soul having quitted its infamous prison, in order to fly into the infernal gulfs, the vain affairs of a more vain bishopric have remained in suspense; all the infidels, all the monks, all the fathers of impiety, all the pagans, have assembled, and, after several diabolical deliberations, they have agreed on this single point, that they were in want of a bishop, who, himself accursed of God, and absolutely deprived of celestial succour, would, nevertheless, venture to promise them divine assistance; who, depraved in himself, would induce them to commit still more evil; who, bewildered in error and heresy, might conduct them into other errors and other heresies; who, in short, fulfilling the vain functions of episcopacy, would drag them more directly and

At the convent of the TRINITY, we were not at the extremity of Cape MELECCA, and we resolved to proceed towards that point, which is entirely formed of masses of rocks, heaped up into lofty mountains, and rent

more surely to hell. And, to this effect, the same infidels have proposed to us one ———, an example of wickedness, a model of iniquity, a devil incarnate and bearing the horns of *Satan*, the messenger, and, perhaps, the outdoer of *Belzebub*; vile and abject, of whom the assemblies of men will say, on the day of judgment, when the blows of red-hot iron clubs shall fall like hail on his criminal head: *Still more, Lord, still more.*

This above-mentioned monk, whose qualities have just been sufficiently described, to whom these letters patent belong, and to whom credit is to be given on this occasion only, the most ancient of his order, that is to say, accumulating with obstinacy a crowd of errors; joining ignorance to malice; flattering himself to soften the soul of demons, by numerous fasts and steril mortifications, or, at least, prevailing on others to believe so; doing nothing else, by imposing on himself obligations by vows, but fixing on himself eternally the yoke of malediction; religious without religion, and walking with a firm step in the path of perdition; whom may heaven, on the day of menace and chastisement, cover with the sweat of fever, and the infectious matter of gangrene, his brow, encircled by the diadem of *Lucifer*, and clothed with ornaments bedaubed with pitch, this monk, in short, designated for presiding over infidels, and for inventing new heresies, has been appointed bishop.

Done, &c. &c.

into

into profound precipices. At the very moment of our departure, I had like to have been left dead on the spot. When I was going to mount my horse, not having taken the precaution to make use, like the Turks, of some elevation to get into the saddle, I set my foot in the stirrup in the European manner; but my horse, being galled under the belly in the place of the girth, experiencing pain from the impression of this girth, which the weight of my body occasioned to move and press against his wound, reared up and fell upon me; my head pitched within less than two inches of the flight of stone-steps, and to this trifling distance was I indebted for not having been killed: but I experienced no injury; I remounted my horse with greater precaution, and this little accident delayed not our departure a single moment.

At a full half league from the convent of the TRINITY, in advancing towards the point of the promontory, across roads, or rather paths made on blocks of stones, stands another convent dedicated to ST. JOHN. It is far less considerable than the former; this is also the work of the Venetians; but it has not been completed, and its construction is

less advanced. This house would have been tolerably handsome, had it been finished. We stopped there but a moment, because it is by no means interesting, unless for its situation on the most elevated pitch of the cape, whence the view extends to a great distance towards the sea. But this enlarged horizon has not the agreeableness of the smiling plain, of the charming site of the convent of the TRINITY, and the mind is rather saddened than enlivened by the rocks by which one is surrounded.

Here we left our horses, the paths ceasing to be passable for them, and foot-passengers even having some difficulty in walking over mountains, entirely formed of gray marble, and so covered with it, as to leave but here and there intervals, in which grow a few plants and shrubs. We descended by a very difficult road, having beside us frightful precipices, formed by the fissures of perpendicular mountains.

At the foot of one of these mountains is situated a little monastery, which also bears the name of *St. JOHN*, and the district where it is built is called that of *CATHOLICOS*. The descent to it is by a flight of one hundred and thirty-nine steps cut in the rock. This
house

house has long been deserted, on account of the frequent pillages to which it was exposed on the part of pirates, who landed on the coast for the purpose of laying it under contribution.

On the coast of the chapel of this convent, which is falling into ruins, is the entrance of a grotto*. We each entered with a flambeau in our hand, and conducted by a monk, belonging to the great convent of St. JOHN. A guide is necessary to strangers, who wish to penetrate into this excavation formed by Nature, in order that they may not be exposed to falling headlong into some abyss. The grotto is spacious, and a person may easily proceed there nearly a mile, before he arrives at the extremity ; it runs horizontally into the bosom of the mountain. An infinite number of pillars of stalactites, which assume all sorts of forms, and some of which are of a prodigious size, seem intended for supporting the roof. In the space which is between these pillars, the work of a slow filtration of the waters, and of the stony substances that they have brought with them,

* *Tournefort* makes no mention of this grotto, although he visited the same district.

are found other masses, which ages have, in like manner, elaborated, some of which hang from the roof of the grotto, and others rise from the ground: they all have different forms. Among these may be discovered porticoes, heads, tubes slender as quills, and other figures, whose great variety and number produce a very agreeable effect. You walk over a large piece of fallen stalactites, the extremity of which is a perfect representation of the head of a hog. In the midst of these sports of chance, the imagination has a vast field for conjectures and fictions.

The colour of the stalactites of the grotto of CATHOLICOS is, in general, yellowish, dull, and opaque, like almost all concretions of this nature; but some are also seen of a dazzling white, whose beauty surpasses alabaster of the finest polish. In a little time, means might be found to detach pieces of it of no inconsiderable size, and fit for forming very beautiful works. Although extremely hard, these stalactites easily break, which renders them very difficult to be worked. On striking them with a hammer, they emit sparks, produced by the vitreous particles which the waters have brought down,
and

and blended with the calcareous substances of which they are composed.

The rains had cooled the atmosphere to such a degree as to cause us to experience a slight sensation of cold. In the grotto, on the contrary, we felt a powerful heat; and we were there soon covered with sweat, though we had left most of our clothes at the entrance. On my first journey to this place, I had experienced quite the reverse; it was very warm without, and the cold was very sharp in the grotto. That was in the month of June, and we were now there in November.

Near the grotto there is, on one side, a well of excellent water; and on the other side, but a little farther on, a recess, where bones are piled up. They are probably those of the monks who inhabited the convent. Opposite, a very handsome bridge, fifty feet in height, of a single arch, and substantially built, joins the two mountains, and crosses the narrow and deep valley by which they are separated. On the declivity of this other mountain are seen some natural excavations, which served as obscure and pious abodes to ancient anchorites.

No solitude can be imagined more perfect, and at the same time more wild, without being

ing hideous, than that in which is situated the little convent of Sr. JOHN. Surrounded by perpendicular mountains, bristling with naked rocks, whose melancholy and arid uniformity is interrupted by the foliage of a few shrubs inclined on their surface, the man who inhabits it is concealed from all the world; the enormous curtains which seem to envelop him, leave him only a view of the sky. In safety on the brink of a frightful precipice, the bridge, whose top is flat, and a little platform made before the house, afford him the means of taking a walk, which is sufficient for moderate exercise and meditation: the eye, in following the torrent or the precipice which exists between the two mountains, discovers the sea as through a vista; and this prospect affords a change to reveries and silent occupations. But, it must be confessed, religion or philosophy can alone find charms in a rugged and solitary nook, which insulates man from other men, and leaves him no intercourse but with the Divinity and himself.

Covies of red partridges delight in these inaccessible mountains, and there they live in safety. There, also, are to be seen wild goats, which leap from rock to rock with
admirable

admirable address and agility. These wild goats, which are to be met with in the Isle of CANDIA, and several other islands of the same sea, are of the bouquetin*, or mountain goat species. The modern Greeks, as has been done by their ancestors, confound the *bouquetin* and the *chamois* under the same denomination of *wild goat*. The French, habituated to the LEVANT, also knew them by no other denomination than that of *chèvre sauvage*. It is to be presumed, in fact, that BUFFON himself imagined that these two animals are not of a species different from that of the domestic goat.

I quitted with regret the solitude of CATHOLICOS. The silence of nature, the sort of terror inspired by the gloomy scenery of the situation, the vicinity of dark caverns, whence gulfs, in which no man ever penetrated, extend into the bosom of the earth, together with the remains, half-decomposed, of the ancient inhabitants of this desert, had involved me in a religious reverie, and plunged me into a profound melancholy. Absorbed in my thoughts, I was not aware

* *Bouquetin*, BUFFON, Hist. Nat. des Quadrupèdes, édition de SONNINI, tome xxx.—*Capra ibex*. LINN.

of the fatigue that is experienced in ascending the flight of steps by which we had arrived; and I was not roused from my distraction till the moment when my companions gave me notice to quit the path, in order to visit a small house inhabited by a single caloyer.

On one side is a grotto or cavern, the arched roof of which is very lofty, but which is no great depth. Just on entering, one is struck by the resemblance of a bear, formed by a very large block of stalactites. Pocock, who visited this cavern, says that there are also to be seen here several hunters, in like manner formed of stalactites, who seem to attack the bear*; but these figures of hunters have probably been destroyed, for there are now no vestiges of them.

After having remounted our horses at the great convent of ST. JOHN, we went to sleep at that of the TRINITY; and the next day we pursued our route to CANEA. We passed near ACROTIRI, a convent of nuns: farther on, we stopped a few moments at the country-house of a Turk, a friend to the French; we were there extremely well received. Coffee,

* Travels in the East, &c. book ii. chap. xvii.

pipes, sherbet, were presented to us with cordiality; and we took leave of this honest Muffulman, who had been a great traveller, at the same time expressing our wishes that his countrymen might partake of his humanity and civilization.

CHAPTER XIX.

Harbour of Canea.—Danger incurred by the Author in giving assistance to a Barbary corsair.—Situation of this corsair.—Sant Otero.—Harbour of Suda.—Game.—Shell-fish.—Sea-urchins.—Sardines, or sprats.—Road from Suda to Canea.—Lepers.—Romeca, a dance of the Greeks.—Apothecary of Canea.—Signs of liberty.

WHEN we are to speak of the harbours which are in the hands of the Turks, we are forced to repeat incessantly, and to describe, for each of them, the same negligence, the same barbarous apathy, which coolly suffer to fall into decay those great basins which nature and art had formed, in order to promote commerce and public prosperity. At CANEA are again found the vices of administration, and the indifference, which are to be remarked, wherever we land, on the immense extent of coast, become, for the misfortune of the people who inhabit it, the property of

of the Mussulmans. No precaution, no police, no mean of repair and preservation is there employed; the process of cleansing a port, by means of lighters, is unknown; ships throw overboard, with impunity, every thing that embarrasses them, and not unfrequently a part of their ballast. The bottom rises, and is covered by foreign bodies, dangerous for the cables; the basin is choked up; it can scarcely admit vessels of two hundred tons burden; the arsenal, and the fine docks for ship-building, which the Venetians had constructed there, are falling into ruins, and are no longer in a condition to be made use of; and the Turkish government beholds, with a stupid eye, the powerful promoters of its strength and wealth thus decaying.

Exposed to the north winds, the entrance of the harbour is difficult when they blow with violence; then vessels do not enter the gulf, at the head of which this entrance is situated; but, if once they have run into it during these northerly gales, it is no longer possible for them to get out of it, and they are obliged to steer for the very narrow mouth of the harbour, where the waves collect in heaps, and frequently rise high enough to
clear

clear the mole, and to spread and break in the basin.

I do not recollect, without terror, the dangers which several French seamen and myself incurred, in giving assistance to a vessel which had imprudently got into the Gulf of CANEA, during the night, and in a very strong gale of wind from the northward. It was nine o'clock in the evening, the night was extremely dark, the wind furious, and the sea roared against the mole in a terrible manner. I was on board a French merchant-vessel, at anchor in the harbour: the three captains with whom I had made the excursion to Cape MELECCA had assembled on board this ship, in order to give me a supper. Reports of cannon, repeated at certain intervals, were heard in the offing; their hollow and deep sound added to the gloomy horror inspired by the noise of the raging winds and waves. Fires kindled at the top of the light-house, which stands at the entrance of the harbour, spread their agitated light over this scene of confusion and fury in the contending elements. Such was the only assistance that could be procured in a place where there neither are pilots, nor persons appointed to superintend the harbours. Reports of guns, the signal
of

of danger and distress, succeeded each other with rapidity. French merchant-ships being at that time very numerous in the seas of the LEVANT, there was every reason to believe that the vessel, whose repeated calls for assistance we heard, was of that description. The determination of exposing themselves in order to save their fellow-citizens, companions, or friends, was instantly taken by the captains with whom I was supping. They manned the largest long-boat belonging to the three vessels, and the stoutest of their sailors were ordered to be selected for this expedition. I chose to accompany my entertainers, and we pulled out of the harbour, having to struggle against the wind and waves, which came with violence directly against us, and opposed our progress. We were more than once on the point of being swamped. At length, after considerable difficulty and danger, we arrived near a vessel which was lying to, and suffering herself to be drifted towards the mole. A tier of guns run out soon made us perceive that we were not approaching a merchant-ship; and when we got on board, we found that we were on the deck of a BARBARY corsair belonging to TRIPOLI.

Although the commander of this vessel was a tolerably good seaman, he had not been able to persuade his crew to manœuvre so as to enter the harbour of CANEA. A few men only had consented to remain on deck, and the rest kept quietly in the waist, smoking their pipe, as if they had been in the situation the least exposed. Our arrival gave fresh energy to the commander of the corsair, a rough and ferocious pirate. In any other circumstances, he would not have spoken to us but with brutality. Danger had rendered him mild and obsequious: he called us his friends and brothers; he conjured us to share among ourselves the command of his ship, and save her from destruction; he reserved for his people all the violence of his character, and, with a stick in his hand, forced them to come on deck. At last the fore-sail alone was set; and we contrived, without any accident, to cast anchor in the harbour. The BARBARY free-booter, who had manifested so much joy at receiving assistance when he was in danger, expressed no farther acknowledgment when he had escaped from it; and, by his gross ingratitude, very worthy of a barbarous pirate, he induced brave seamen, who had exposed themselves

selves to great perils, in order to preserve him from them, to repent of their generous action.

In the gulf, and to the west of the harbour, a small island, named *SANT ODERO*, or *ST. THEODORE*, on which the Venetians had built a castle, now entirely demolished, affords a tolerably good anchorage for large ships: however, they avail themselves of it but very seldom, and prefer entering the harbour of *SUDA*, where they are in much greater safety. Cape *MELECCA* forms the west part, and Cape *TRAPANI*, formerly *DREPANUM*, the east side of this narrow gulf, which penetrates nearly two leagues inland: it was probably the *AMPHIMALE* of the ancients. Historians are not agreed on this point. Others place the harbour of *AMPHIMALE* between *SUDA* and *RETIMO*, where there is, however, only a very bad haven; and the latter make of Cape *MELECCA*, the Cape *DREPANUM* of the ancients. It seems to me, that the opinion which I adopt is the most rational, and the most conformable to the state of the places.

At the entrance of the great Bay of *SUDA*, and sheltered by Cape *MELECCA*, is an islet a quarter of a league in circuit. A fortress, which

which remained for a long time in the hands of the Venetians, even after they had lost the Island of CANDIA, defends this important harbour, which Nature has formed, and which is one of the finest and most spacious in the MEDITERRANEAN: the most numerous fleet may there be assembled. Ships may cast anchor under the fortress, but they are not in safety; whereas, by running up as far as the coast which terminates the bay, and which is called *LA CULATE*, they are perfectly sheltered. This harbour has, nevertheless, the inconvenience of affording no anchorage but at *LA CULATE* itself: there are no soundings throughout the remainder of its length, so that frequently ships are detained there for a considerable time, in expectation of a favourable wind for leaving it.

There are no habitations on the coast which forms this bright; the place is solitary, and no other amusement is to be enjoyed there but that of shooting. The uncultivated and rocky hills, with which the bay is surrounded, abound with game; partridges, quails, and hares, are there common; and a morass, which is at the extremity, is generally full of snipes and waterhens. The sea there also abounds with fish;

in

in particular, fardines, or sprats, are there taken in great quantities. The stones washed by the sea contain numbers of dactyls; other shell-fish are also to be seen; and sea-urchins, which, on the coast of this part of the Island of CANDIA, are more delicate than elsewhere, have multiplied to such a degree, that whole boat-loads of them are brought to CANEA.

From LA CULATE to CANEA the distance is reckoned a league: the plain which leads thither is fertile and agreeable, and the traveller feels a pleasure in crossing fields adorned with the riches of culture, or enamelled with flowers which grow there spontaneously. But, on approaching the town, a disgusting spectacle suddenly changes the pleasurable sensations which had been produced by these smiling pictures. The soul is harrowed up, the senses are painfully affected, at the sight of the huts which line the road. These are the asylums of persons of both sexes, eaten up by that horrible and contagious disease of the skin which still exercises its ravages in some parts of the EAST, and which the crusades had introduced into EUROPE, where we have succeeded in getting rid of it.

The leprosy still infects one of the finest countries of the EAST. This disorder was anciently known to the Greeks, who called it *lepra*, and the Jews were very subject to its ravages. It still acts with some degree of virulence on the inhabitants of the Island of CANDIA: the Turks and Greeks are alike afflicted by it, and it attacks the rich as well as the poor. I make this remark, because SAVARY has affirmed that persons in affluence were not subject to the leprosy*. He, doubtless, did not recollect that, when we were together at CANEA, the son of an opulent aga, still young, and a very handsome man, was a victim to this loathsome disorder.

Lepers are obliged to quit the town, and dwell in a hut, where they are prohibited from all communication with healthful persons. They there live on the produce of a small garden adjoining to their cottage, on poultry which they rear, and on the alms of passengers. No sooner do they perceive any one, than they advance in order to implore pity; and their approach causes the most violent disgust. Their face, as well as their body, is swelled by reddish and scaly blotches,

* *Lettres sur la Grèce. Lettre xxxiii.*

and eroded by pustules; their aspect is hideous, and one hastens to throw them some money, in order to get away from them. Hatred to Europeans has taken such deep root in the heart of Mussulmans, that unfortunate Turks, confined in the enclosure intended for lepers, insulted us all, at the same time asking charity of us. How frequently have I not heard myself thus addressed: “*Pray, infidel, dog, give me a parat !*”

Who would imagine that Love should also establish his throne in the midst of so horrible and disgusting an association? Intimate connexions are contracted between the wretches of which it is composed; the sharpness of their humours provokes their passion, or, to speak more correctly, their brutality; its effects are excessive; they are under no restraint: separated from the rest of mankind, they disdain every sort of reserve. In the open day, they are seen indulging in their voluptuous transports; and they cease not to lavish on each other these horrible caresses, till the moment when, sinking under the disorder which overwhelms them, they drop to pieces, decomposed by long and complete putrefaction.

By the side of this melancholy heap of men in prey, while yet living, to a general corruption, is exhibited, from time to time, another spectacle, which causes no less horror. It is on the edge of this same road, which leads to the only gate that CANEA has on the land side, that criminals, who have undergone the terrible punishment of empalement, are exposed. They are ranged on each side of the road; and in this dreadful rank are seen men whose body is longitudinally transpierced by a stake, some dead, others expiring; some smoking their pipe, with as much sang-froid as if they were sitting on cushions, railing at the Europeans, and living, as long as twenty-four hours, in the most excruciating torments. But let us turn aside our eyes from these objects, which inspire pity and horror, and direct them to images less revolting. I beheld, for the first time, in a field near CANEA, the *Romecca*, a dance mingled with singing, which the present Greeks have received from their ancestors, and which they have preserved nearly in all its details. Less constant in our tastes, as well as in our pleasures, by what a multiplicity of changes have they not varied? And who could give the enumeration of all the

the species of dances which have succeeded each other among us, only within these two centuries?

The dance of the Greeks of CANDIA is not destitute of simplicity and nobleness. According to the opinion of an inestimable writer*, it is the most ancient of all: HOMER has described it†, and it is the image of the labyrinth of CRETE, of which it imitates the turnings and windings. The antiquity of this dance has, indeed, something imposing; but, if we consider it without prepossession, we find in it a serious and grave turn, too remote from the gaiety which we expect to meet with in rural hops. Their songs have not more vivacity; they are slow and languid; and the habit which the Greeks have of singing through the nose, renders their songs still more drawling and less sprightly.

I saw the Candiot dance conducted by a Greek, who, after having studied some time at PADUA, had set up as an apothecary at CANEA. This man, who was elderly, very tall, thin, meagre, and lank, intro-

* GUY's *Lettres sur la Grèce*, Letter xiii.

† Iliad, book xviii. and see POPE's version, line 657.

duced into his steps and his finging a gravity which had something truly risible; and his snuffling tone was very unpleasant, at the same time that his stern countenance formed a very striking contrast with the beautiful persons, the rosy complexion, the sweet smile, and the large and expressive black eyes, of the young girls who composed the dance.

This apothecary, an intelligent and estimable man, lived under the protection of FRANCE, and he was much attached to our nation. He wore a long robe in the Greek style; but, in lieu of the cap or calotte of his countrymen, his head was covered with a large cocked hat, a sign of the liberty which he enjoyed. The different marks of the emancipation of men are deserving of notice. Here, the cap is reckoned to be the indication of it; elsewhere, it is the hat. People are not better agreed, as to these signs of liberty, than as to liberty itself; and men have never been less free than when, by vain exterior marks, it has been meant to persuade them that they were so.

CHAPTER XX.

Gardens of the Island of Candia.—Comparison between those gardens and ours.—Corn and agriculture.—Olive-trees.—Plane-trees.—Orange-trees, &c.—Description of the groves formed by different species of trees.—Acacia.—Jasmine.—Colocasia.—Fruit-trees.—Birds.—Solitary black-bird.—Flowers.—Shrubs.—Aromatic Plants.—Dittany.

TRAVELLERS have taken a pleasure in describing in their narratives, as places replete with charms, the gardens which are in the vicinity of the town of CANEA. SAVARY, in particular, has delighted in painting them; and he has employed, in this picture, the most delicate touches of his pencil, and the most brilliant colours of his pallet. They are, indeed, very agreeable; but, like the gardens of the other parts of the EAST, they by no means resemble ours; and we should be dis-

appointed, if, on entering them, we expected to find there compartments, symmetry, order in the plantations, regularity in the seed-plots, straight alleys, in short, all the accessories which accompany the elegant uniformity of our enclosures. These, properly speaking, are orchards, groves, clumps of foliage, which the shears respect, and which are surrounded by groups of fruit-trees; spaces covered with vegetables, or decorated with flowers; other leguminous plants, other flowers scattered, and, as if thrown by chance, grow between the trees and shrubs; the line there is an implement useless to the gardener; he makes no more use of it than of the pruning-knife; paths, rather than walks, wind under the shade of these little woods. The hand of man, which is observable in our orchards and parterres, even when we strive to conceal it, by endeavouring to circumscribe and reduce around us the diversified scenes of Nature, is, in a manner, imperceptible in these confused assemblages of a multitude of various plants. But this appearance of confusion, which is truly the symmetry of Nature, is not without its agreeableness. Magnificence springs from the bosom of the arts; but the pomp of luxury which astonishes,

which

which dazzles, produces only the pride of the senses. Not one of those sensations which please the heart, satisfy it, and procure it pure and sweet enjoyments, is to be found in our confined and noisy walks, in the midst of the elegant and stiff designs of our parterres, of rows of trees, planted and trimmed in a workman-like manner, of the decorations of luxury, of laborious and expensive efforts of waters, spouting into the air, or pent up between the straight borders of a canal, the two extremities of which the eye embraces, or falling again, at no small cost, on steps; a very contracted image of the majestic cascades, whence rivers precipitate their foaming waves. Let the proud citizen, whose contracted heart sighs only after frivolous pleasures and factitious and barren enjoyments, not forsake the enclosures of opulence and monotony; let him not enter into these solitary recesses, which have not cost heaps of gold, and of which Nature has defrayed all the expense. He is too unmindful of her to relish her charms, and he would experience nothing but disgust in places which are consecrated to her, and which she has taken pains to embellish.

You,

You, who, surrounded by the tumultuous corruption of our manners, have found means to preserve yourselves from the insatiable thirst of riches, which dries up the sources of honourable sentiments; who have avoided ambitious immorality, near which every idea of generosity and true greatness are stifled; you, who, simple in your tastes, in your habits, your affections, have not run after brilliant chimeras, and sacrificed to vices, the idols of society; you, whose sensibility has preserved its delicacy, approach, I am going to conduct you towards one of those spots in the Island of CRETE, which, according to our ideas, ought not to bear the name of gardens.

We are in one of the beautiful plains in the environs of CANEA. First, remark all the signs of fertility, spread over this land, happy from the abundance of its various productions. Fields in culture promise rich harvests. Other plains, equally fruitful, are frequently met with in the island; Plenty had there, in like manner, fixed herself; but the tyrannic government which oppresses this country, has been sufficiently powerful to expel it; several districts have remained uncultivated; various species of corn, which furnished the
subsistence

subsistence of a population more numerous than it is in our days, and was a branch of exterior commerce, are now insufficient; and often is seen arriving in the harbours, grain destined for filling up the forced intervals of culture, on a soil ever ready to repay the laborious advances of the husbandman. You will doubtless repeat with me, “Woe and ruin to the tyrants, to whom agriculture is an object of indifference and persecution!”

Behold those great trees which form a sort of forests; they are olive trees: under a climate, a stranger to the severe cold of our winters, they perish only from age. These useful trees are loaded with a prodigious quantity of fruit, from which is expressed oil, an important branch of the commerce of CRETE, but it is there badly manufactured; the inhabitants are ignorant of the art of refining it, and rendering it agreeable to the taste; and the Europeans purchase it only for their soap-houses and other manufactories.

Farther on, are plane-trees, which attain a considerable height, and cover a large space with their thick foliage. They acquire a prodigious growth; their branches extend afar; the sun cannot penetrate through a multitude

of

of obstacles, which are opposed to its rays by the accumulated surfaces of their broad leaves. The obscurity which reigns at the foot of these colossuses of Nature, has something noble, but at the same time too gloomy; and one cannot penetrate into it without a sort of tremor.

But here we are in one of those gardens which bear so little resemblance to ours. What a charming shade we are under!..... You recognise those trees which our art cannot suffer to grow at liberty, which we imprison in our green-houses during half the year, and which all our pains preserve only in a state of languor. With what vigour they grow here in a substantial ground, which the hoar-frosts never deprive of a gentle warmth! Their boughs extend and intertwine without constraint; no one thinks of mutilating them, for the purpose of giving them a regular outline; they are not of a spherical form, whose surface presents only truncated branches and leaves half cut, without shade, without grace, and almost always without fruit. See how the branches of the latter are loaded with large clusters of flowers and fine fruits. But that orchard, which flatters the senses in so agreeable a manner, is not en-

tirely formed of trees bearing the sweet orange. You will there find the bitter orange, lemons, and citrons. The almond-tree, the pomegranate-tree with purple fruit, mingle their boughs and their shade; and, under these rich arbours, the humble violet is likewise to be remarked for its beautiful and modest dress, and from the sweet perfume which it exhales.

The great rivulet which you saw in the plain, and whose winding banks are covered with myrtles and oleanders, has been divided into several branches. Its silvery waters, flowing without constraint in little canals, which have the irregularity of those formed by Nature, bring coolness under bowers already so agreeably shaded. Here, no troublesome crowd comes to rouse you from the sweet reveries to which you are invited, by the delightful tint of obscurity of these balmy places. Here, you may wander alone; friendship, love may accompany you, and nothing distracts you from the intimacy of the communications of the one, nor from the transports and effusions of the other. Do you conceive that it is possible to imagine retreats more captivating, solitudes more propitious to love? The silence which here reigns, a mysterious shade, the sweetest perfumes, every

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thing gently agitates the senses, every thing disposes to sensibility, and to its sweetest emotions. Under the same climate, in a country not very remote, but in retreats less agreeable, I also felt those tender agitations. But I was not long happy ; jealous fate snatched me from sweet transports. There are men born for misfortune, whom a fatal destiny pursues, whose soul is incessantly in prey to the most poignant pains : alas ! I am of that number. Excuse me, my tears flow ; but they are as much the effect of tender and delightful recollections, as of the expression of my sorrow.

Leguminous plants lie more particularly on that side ; but, in order to dispel from these places every thing that can recall the idea of monotony, several trees have been planted in the midst of these little divisions, which we cannot call compartments. The acacia, with clusters of yellow flowers, perfumes them with its sweet emanations ; with what vigour it grows in this land of fecundity ! I had already seen it embellish the balmy groves of ROSETTA, where the Arabs call it *seissaban* ; here the Greeks give it the name of *gazie**. Here are bushes of Arabian

* *Mimosa farnesiana*. LINN. — Ang. Farnesian fragrant acacia.
jasmine,

jasmine, whose powerful, but agreeable odour, is softened by its mixture with that of the other flowers by which they are surrounded. The branches of these beautiful jasmines become sufficiently long and thick, and grow also sufficiently straight, to be perforated throughout their length, and form large pipe-stems, highly esteemed in TURKEY.

Melons, cucumbers grow pell-mell among the pot-herbs; layers, glasses, either in frame or in the shape of bells, are useless on an excellent soil which is never deprived of heat. You are not acquainted with that tall plant with large leaves; it is a beautiful species of arum, called colocasia, or great Egyptian arum*. In this island, as in EGYPT, where it has in like manner been cultivated from time immemorial, its roots are dressed, which have pretty much the taste of our potatoes.

Groups of fruit-trees rise above these useful plants. You recognise the apple-tree, the pear-tree, the small cherry-tree, the walnut-tree, the fig-tree, &c.; but the fruits of the greater part of these trees are of a quality

* *Arum maximum Ægyptiacum, quod vulgo colocasia* — C. Baubin. Bri. 193. — *Arum colocasia*. — LINN. The Egyptians call it *coulasis*.

very inferior to those which grow in our country. It is not the fault of the soil, nor of the climate ; but the inhabitants are ignorant of the art of varying the forms and the flavour of fruits, and of making the stem, which supports them, bear foreign ones. Grafting, which would here yield delicious productions, is not in use, and we see here none but trees which we call *savageons*, or wild stocks, because they are such as they were produced by Nature. Your eyes dwell on that species of apricot-tree, which has, in fact, some affinity to ours, but which is unknown in EUROPE. This tree is peculiar to the warm countries of the EAST ; it is common in SYRIA and in EGYPT ; in CANDIA it no longer has the same flavour that it acquires in those countries ; grafting would render it still more agreeable, and its fruit would become larger. I know not what name the Greeks of CANDIA give to that small apricot ; in SYRIA and in EGYPT the Arabs call it *mischmisch**. It is there dried, and afterwards dressed with different kinds of viands : this is one of the dishes which are there most

* *Prunus Armeniaca*, *misjmisj*. Forskal. Flor. Egypt. Arab. page 67.

commonly served up at the table of the rich.

In these enchanted groves, you probably expected to meet with a multitude of little birds, which have made them their habitual abode and the domain of their loves. Here they live in perfect security; man disturbs not their union, nor the repose of their rising family; he endeavours not to attract them, nor to surprise them in cruel snares. Neither can we consider as useless beings those amiable guests, which, from their variegated colours, their singing, and their movements, are not one of the smallest attractions of these orchards; they pay for the sweet tranquillity that they are suffered to enjoy, by devouring a number of insects hurtful to plants, and which multiply with the more abundance under a sky ever temperate. In this mixture of various species you will distinguish the linnet, the nightingale, the petty-chap, the gold-finch, the chaffinch, the bull-finch, the titmouse, &c. You love to behold again the birds which surround and enliven our rural habitation. But listen a moment; do you hear, on the agrestic and uninhabited summits of the mountains, which crown the charming plain where we are, soft and melodious sounds that are echoed among the rocks? They are pro-

duced by a scarcer bird, the solitary black-bird†. How those sonorous, but sweet and languishing tones flatter the ear, and penetrate the soul disposed to a sweet melancholy! The Greeks give to this bird, whose singing fills the deserts, the name of *petro-cockiso*, bird of the rocks, and the Turks that of *kajabout-bowl*, which signifies nightingale of the rock. Its brilliant warbling occasions it to be in request in the great towns of TURKEY, where it costs as much as a hundred dollars, that is, about two hundred and twenty-five livres of our money.

For enriching and perfuming such charming retreats, it was not enough that innumerable clusters of flowers should hang above the ground; its surface is also, in a manner, strewn with them. You admire their brilliant colour and dazzling variety. They are, nevertheless, only plants natural to the island, and foreign lands have not been laid under contribution for this elegant decoration. With the exception of a few shades more lively and a part more regular, for which they are indebted to a slight degree

* *Le merle solitaire.* BUFFON. Hist. Nat. des Oiseaux.—
Turdus cyanus. LINN.

of culture and to the choice of the soil, these flowers shine with equal lustre in the midst of the verdure of the plains, and on the declivity of the hills. By extending our walk beyond the limits of this garden, with which I have just made you acquainted, you will see scattered the same flowers that are there assembled. It is principally from the Island of CANDIA that our florists have procured the beautiful species of ranunculuses and anemones, which constitute the ornament of our parterres. Whole plains are enamelled with narcissuses; lilies, tuberoses, hyacinths, roses, saffron, orchis of uncommon beauty, present themselves at every step.

You must not imagine that the oleanders and myrtles, the ornaments of the rivulet which we have crossed, have there been planted, and do not grow spontaneously. The former are to be met with wherever there are running waters, and in all cool places; and the shrub consecrated to Love there forms hedges, thickets, &c. and both are so common that they might almost be considered as the brambles of the country. Other shrubs cover the hills and the rocks with their elegant foliage, and embellish them with their flowers. You there distinguish

a pretty species of holly. which the Greeks call *kadomelas* or *koudomalia**, together with the medlar, the buckthorn, the trefoil-tree, &c.

These clumps, which Nature has distributed with so much grace, are intermingled with aromatic plants, such as common thyme, creeping or wild thyme, sage, marjoram, favy, &c. &c. Their smell, as well as their verdure, is blended and confounded; it impregnates the air with delightful emanations. You see how the famous *fraxinella* or dittany of CRETE, celebrated by the ancients, clothes with profusion the rocks on which we are walking. The peasants collect it, and make it into small bundles of the size of the fist, tying it with rush; these they bring to the market of CANEA and other towns, where this plant is much esteemed by the present inhabitants. Its balsamic odour is preserved for a great length of time: I have still remaining some of this dittany, which I brought home from my travels in CANDIA, and which, for upwards of twenty years past, has scarcely lost any of its smell, or of its virtues. It is a vulnerary, and an excellent stomachic; I have

* *Mespilus apii folio lucido elegantius laciniato.* Tourn.

seen very good effects from it, and I have made use of it with great success on several occasions.

So great an abundance of salutary plants renders the climate of CANDIA the most healthful in the world. HIPPOCRATES sent hither his patients to breathe the air, charged with wholesome vapours, and I would advise you also to fix your abode here, could this beautiful country cease to be polluted by the presence and domination of the barbarians, who have snatched it from the hands of civilized people.

CHAPTER XXI.

Turks and Greeks of Candia. — Women. — Climate. — Agriculture. — Olive-trees. — Cotton. — Mulberry-tree. — Sefamum. — Wines. — Forests. — Rock-rose. — Ladanum. — Horses. — Dogs. — Turkish Dog. — Hogs. — A female Greek villager — Bees, honey, and wax. — Causes of the rise in the price of wax, and means of preventing it.

UNDER a sky which the father of physic considered as the restorer of the health of mankind, the human species must naturally have partaken of so happy an influence. This, in fact, is what strikes the observer, as soon as he lands in the Island of CANDIA. The Turks, whose race is already so handsome, have there acquired a taller stature, muscles more prominent and more strongly marked, broader chest and shoulders, all the proportions which constitute beauty and strength, together with an imposing step

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and carriage; but, through all these advantages, which we could not but wish to admire, the sternness of their countenance gives to their majestic exterior a formidable impression. This sort of brilliant acquisition, which the Turks have made in CANDIA, though general among them is not so with the Greeks of that island. Of a stature less tall, a corpulence less prominent, a step less solemn, a make less robust, but more graceful, this people appear to have degenerated under a climate which is natural to them, and in which they are abandoned to slavery, which alike degrades both the form of the body and that of the mind.

And this same disparity in the exterior attributes of the Turk and the Greek is also met with among the women of those two nations. The Turkish women are there handsomer than in the other parts of the EAST; whereas the female Greeks have, generally speaking, fewer charms, than they possess in several other countries. This fact is worthy of attention; it does not appear easy to assign its cause. How happens it that a temperature so favourable to the fine and vigorous constitution of foreigners has not, or at least appears not to have, any influence on that
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of the natives? The heavy yoke of cruel slavery may probably, as I have just said, with regard to the men, lessen the effects of a happy climate; but this impression cannot operate with so much activity on the person of the women, who, nevertheless, seem to have lost many more of their allurements. Does a long habit of good destroy its sweet impression? Or else have the excellent qualities of the air, which is breathed in CANDIA, something too vigorous, and, if I may use the expression, too masculine for the delicate organs of the women, who have been exposed to it from time immemorial?

With the exception of the leprosy, which was brought thither from ASIA, and which, with precautions, might be made to disappear, as we have extirpated it in FRANCE, where it was one of the fatal presents of the crusades, there are no contagious nor prevailing disorders in the Island of CANDIA. I speak not of the plague, which, in countries where every prudential measure is unknown, may be introduced there accidentally. The water is as good as the air; it runs down on all sides from the mountains; and, having great rapidity in its course over inclined rocks, it preserves its limpidness, and does not

not collect into ponds or marshes, whence might issue pernicious exhalations.

The nature of the productions of the earth partakes of that of the atmosphere; their good qualities would not be inferior to their abundance, if agriculture, that mother of states, could, I do not say be there encouraged, but cease to be disgraced and persecuted. Commerce and industry, in order to fix themselves there with splendour, are waiting only for a change in the government, and men more worthy to reign over a country which the inappreciable advantages that it has received from Nature have rendered famous, still more than the annals of antiquity. Its plains, abandoned to an active culture, divested of every obstacle, might, like those of SICILY, become the granary which would insure the subsistence of a population more numerous than it is in our days, as well as that of the neighbouring and less favoured countries. On a land, which its nature and that of the atmosphere which warms it render impatient to produce, the inhabitants would take advantage of the forwardness of the harvests, in order to commit to it, in the same year, plants which would double its produce. A change of crops,
well

well managed, would afford the facility of multiplying cattle, which are wanting there at the present day, and which, in the eyes of every intelligent farmer, are a certain source of fecundity and riches. New kinds of culture would find, on a soil so fertile, the elements of a productive vegetation, at the same time that those to which the natives are habituated, would acquire greater increase and abundance.

In the first rank of these ancient productions of the earth, which still offer some speculation to commerce, but which, supported by a good administration, would become so flourishing, we must place the olive-tree. No climate, no soil is more propitious to it than that of CANDIA, and the oils which are drawn from it, refined like ours, would cease to be common oils, fit only for soap-houses and manufactories.

Independently of wheat and barley, which can scarcely be of a superior quality, cotton also is there cultivated; but this commodity is neglected in the vallies of CANDIA, although it succeeds in them extremely well. Hands, and activity, which are discouraged by slavery and exactions, are wanting to agriculture, as well as to industry, and plains
which

which the labour of men might bring into unison with the rich profusion of Nature, remain uselefs and forsaken.

This is the case with the mulberry-tree, by no means plentiful in CANDIA, though it would grow there amazingly well, and would make of the silk-trade, at most null in our days, one of the branches of public riches.

Sesamum*, the oil of which has, since ancient times, been much in use in the EAST, also occupies some place in the plains; but this serviceable plant is still more neglected than the others.

One of the productions of the Island of CANDIA, which has preserved its ancient reputation, is wine, which, in some districts, is still delicious. Every one knows that HOMER has praised the wine of CANDIA, and that JUPITER drank no other nectar during his stay in the island. The caloyers of a little convent, situated in a very fertile and very agreeable plain, half a league from CANEA†, presented me with a wine still

* *Sesamum indicum*. LINN.

† In this convent I saw the epitaph of a child of a French consul, *M. Desse*, that was interred there in 1715.

worthy of figuring at the table of the gods, and which, in point of delicacy and perfume, was not inferior to the best known wines. The malmsey, which is made in the environs of Mount IDA, is also much esteemed; but all these CANDIA wines must be drunk with great caution; they are of a fiery quality, fly very quickly to the head, and shake the nerves. The Turks of CANEA are less scrupulous observers of the prohibitions of MAHOMET, than those of other countries. Several drink wine with much pleasure, and it is not uncommon there to meet some who have all the symptoms of intemperance, and the effrontery of people who are not afraid of publicly manifesting a contempt for the laws. It may easily be conceived, that the strength of the wine necessarily increases the violence of their character, and to meet them at that time is not unattended with danger.

Although the commercial relations of FRANCE with CANDIA have been habitual, the wines of that island have never been an object of speculation, whether they have been little known, or, which is more probable, whether the quantity which is made of them be not sufficiently considerable to become an article of commerce of great importance in
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the eyes of our merchants in the LEVANT, who concerned themselves little to discover new branches to add to those pointed out to them by an old routine. I am convinced that the CANDIA wines, brought into our countries, would not appear inferior to their ancient renown. The Greeks, certain of finding new vents, would extend the culture of their vines, the produce of which would be another mean of facilitating mutual exchanges, and increasing the advantages of a reciprocal commerce.

The plantations of Nature are no less useful in a country on which she has poured her favours with profusion, than those which are due to culture. Not to mention those charming shrubs, which an eternal spring preserves, with so many charms, on a land that they incessantly adorn, nor of that prodigious quantity of aromatic plants with which the rocks are embalmed, forests cover, in several places, the declivity of the mountains, and crown the summit of the hills. Pines, cedars, and firs, there shoot forth straight and tall stems, an inappreciable resource for ship-building, as well as the resin which exudes from these vast nurseries of Nature. No country, perhaps, unites, with

so many advantages and so much profusion, objects of great utility to those of agreeableness; a valuable union, since it is the base of the prosperity of nations, and of the transient, but successive happiness of those of whom they are composed.

On the mountains in the vicinity of CANEA, and at the foot of Mount IDA, grows a species of rock-rose*, which yields *ladanum* or *labdanum*, a resinous substance that serves for perfumes, and the preparation of certain drugs. The ancient Greeks called it *ledon*; it was of great value in their eyes, and they drew it from some other countries, and particularly SYRIA and the Isle of CYPRUS. The ancients intrusted, in a manner, the goats with the care of collecting this article. These animals, a real scourge to trees, on whose leaves and boughs they browse, fell with avidity on the rock-roses, whose odour attracts them, and the resin which trickled from the branches, broken by their teeth, so pernicious to forests and plantations, clung to their beards, there became indurated, and formed little balls, which were carefully collected, but which were almost always mixed

* *Cistus ladaniferus*. LINN.

with goat's hair*, and infected with the strong smell of that animal. At this day ladanum is collected with greater cleanliness; for that purpose is used a sort of long-handled whip, formed of a double row of leathern straps†, which is gently passed over the leaves of the rock-roses, in the hottest time of the year, and during the greatest heat of the day. The whole number of straps of which this very simple instrument is composed, becomes loaded with shining drops as clear as turpentine: these are scraped off and made into cakes: this is ladanum, which, collected in this manner, would be very pure, had not a spirit of fraud taught the Greeks to adulterate it, by mixing it with sand.

This sort of crop, which preliminary labours have not introduced, and which Nature alone prepares every year, is still profitable to the peasants of CANDIA. Independently of the quantity of ladanum which passes into our countries, a great consumption is made of it in the EAST. It is a custom almost general to knead little bits of it between

* PLIN. Hist. Nat. lib. xii. cap. xvii.

† TOURNEFORT has given the figure of one of these whips, in the first volume of his *Voyage du Levant*, page 73 of the 4th edition.

the fingers, and to smell the sweet and rather agreeable odour which they diffuse; the women, principally, take a pleasure in handling it in this manner. Besides its perfume, this substance is reckoned to avert contagion, and to possess several other medical properties. In the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, I have seen it pretty frequently used as a remedy for the head-ach, by applying it to the arteries of the temples.

If from the substances which the land of the Island of CANDIA produces, and which are of so excellent a quality, that, according to the ancients, every thing that grows in that island is incomparably better than what is gathered in other countries, we pass to the useful animals which are there kept, we shall discover the same favours of Nature, the same remissness, the same negligence, on the part of the inhabitants, the necessary consequence of general oppression; in short, the same means of amelioration in agriculture and of extension in commerce. The race of horses which is there seen originally came from BARBARY; but they have extremely degenerated in point of form and beauty. Handsome horses are scarce; but, on the other hand, there are none, perhaps, that can be compared to them
for

for being strong and supple in their limbs, and also for being surefooted. Accustomed to climb up steep mountains, or to descend very inclined planes, their step is firm, and whether they carry a rider, or whether, loaded with heavy burdens, they seem to advance with difficulty, they never stumble in the most difficult places. The address with which they ascend and descend roads, which are nothing more than surfaces, almost level, of smooth marble, bordered by precipices, and on which the feet of the horses appear not to have any hold, is truly admirable. By dint of having set their feet in the same place, they have marked the impression of them, and, in the roughest descents, they cling, by putting them exactly into these little hollows, which they seek, and know how to find again with wonderful exactness. However frightful the road may appear, the traveller needs not be under any uneasiness on that account; it is sufficient for him to suffer the horse to proceed, and not confine his movements, by endeavouring to check the bridle, or to pull up his head, so as to hinder him from seeing the only little excavations that can prevent him from falling and throwing his rider. These excellent horses, intended for travelling in a country

entirely covered with rocky mountains, are, for the most part, abandoned to people who over-load and use them ill. The signs of misery, the marks of ill usage and of want of care, are to be remarked in the greater part of them. Such is, in general, the cruelty of the disposition of man, who repays the important services of a species of animals, all whose faculties are consecrated to him, without reserve, only by the coldest insensibility and barbarity the most ungrateful.

Another species of domestic animals of the Island of CANDIA, the faithful friends of man, and companions of the horse, were formerly reckoned, on account of their fleetness and agility, the best in GREECE, after those of LACEDEMONIA. But their race is degenerated, especially since the Turks, great enemies to dogs, have made themselves masters of that beautiful country. The dogs of CANDIA, like almost all those of the EAST, are a species of large greyhounds or coursing dogs, which, to be handsome animals, require only a little attention. But, in those countries of tyranny and slavery, these animals, to whom attachment is a want, cannot exercise that amiable quality of their instinct; every where repulsed, in vain they endeavour
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to exhibit some steril marks of it; obliged to check themselves, even in the very signs of their affection, they, nevertheless, miserable as they are, prefer living with man, and, as it were, in spite of him, rather than emancipate themselves from a condition of neglect and misfortune, by returning to their primitive state of liberty, in which they would, indeed, no longer have ill usage to undergo; but which would deprive them of the hope of obeying the fate of the law imposed on them by Nature, of having no other will than that of their masters, no other sentiment than that of absolute devotion.

On the subject of dogs, which are in very great numbers in the towns of TURKEY, I shall remark, that we might seek there in vain that species, rather uncommon and without hair, which we call the *Turkish dog*, and sometimes the naked dog. It is not in the temperate climate of TURKEY that dogs lose their hair, it is not even under the burning sky of EGYPT; for those seen in the most northern part, which is distinguished by the name of LOWER EGYPT, are of the race of large greyhounds, deformed by want, which are found in the other towns of TURKEY; and those of UPPER EGYPT have long hair,

and somewhat resemble our shepherd's dog. I cannot say, with precision, from what country the Turkish dog originally came; but I have never met with a single one in **TURKEY**; and whatever inquiry I made, those to whom I applied were unable to indicate to me where any of them were to be found, or even to give me to understand that they were known in that country. I have even some reason to suspect that this is a distinct and separate species; and the scarcity of these dogs in **EUROPE** might lead us to presume that they are a simple accidental variety in a species of animals, the races of which are incessantly crossed and mingled; a variety which may have been called *Turkish dog*, because, having scarcely any hair, they have some resemblance to the Turks, with whose scrupulous attention to eradicate their hair every one is well acquainted.

In **CANDIA** no carnivorous and ferocious animal exists. The shepherd is easy as to the fate of his flock, which has not to dread the murderous tooth of the wolf. Accordingly the sheep there pass their life, in the open air, browsing, at full liberty, on the odoriferous plants with which the mountains abound. Grottoes, formed by Nature in the bosom
of

of the rocks, serve them as a shelter against storms and bad weather. The milk given by the ewes and she-goats furnishes very good cheese. Those which are made at SPHACHIA, the southern district of the island, have a great reputation, and are sent all over the LEVANT. But a more important article of commerce is wool, of which there is also exported a small quantity that will appear very trivial, if we compare it to the abundance of the food which the country affords for the support of flocks more numerous and better taken care of, than they are under a government, the real scourge of agriculture, and under which nothing prospers but tyranny.

The Greeks also keep hogs, a greater number of which would be profitable to rural economy. The inhabitants ought at least to feel themselves, in some measure, obliged to the Turks, to whom hogs are animals unclean and detested, for not preventing their being reared in the country-places, where, however, they are not very common. A hog is even a present which is of some value in the eyes of the Greek villagers. I happened, one day, to be in a village between CANEA and RETIMO, with my janizary, and my Provençal renegado. I lodged at the house of an honest

farmer, whose wife meddled a little with physic and bleeding. I never received so many marks of frank and cordial hospitality, as during the very short stay which I made with these worthy people. The woman, in particular, lavished on me the most officious civilities, and the most delicate attentions. She might be reckoned one of the handsome women of the island, where, as I have said, beauty is rather uncommon. She was no longer young; but her face was characterized by those large and noble features, which are the appendage of the Greek women in general; her eyes were remarkably fine; her hair, of a shining black, was braided with ribands, which only half furrounded it, and this braid, rolled on the top of the head, formed a sort of helmet or turban, which set off, with no inconsiderable advantage, the features of her face. To these exterior allurements, this worthy Greek woman added a tender and generous heart. In order partly to testify to her my gratitude, I offered her an excellent lancet, for which she had appeared to have a great fancy. She attached so much value to this trifling present, that she was determined to make me one in her turn.

The morning before my departure, while the attendants were getting ready our horses, she caused a live hog to be brought, and tied on mine, which I was greatly astonished to see on my saddle, when I was preparing to mount. The not over-scrupulous janizary, who accompanied me, had himself assisted to fasten on this singular portmanteau. With an infinite deal of trouble I got it removed. My landlady appeared grieved at my refusal, and I had no small difficulty to make her comprehend how highly improper it would be that I should enter a Turkish town, where hogs are held in abhorrence, with one of those animals tied on behind me.

A branch of rural industry, which is not sufficiently encouraged in our country, and which succeeds in CANDIA with great facility, and without much trouble, is the multiplication of bees. In order to shew the goodness of the honey which they yield, the ancients feigned that JUPITER had been fed on it, on Mount IDA. This honey is, in fact, of the greatest beauty; and wax, which enters at present, but on a very small scale, into the export-trade of the island, would there be extremely abundant, if activity, the mother

mother of industry, was not diminishing daily with the population. In travels of the nature of these, which consist not in a simple narrative, it is, no doubt, allowable to make a few useful comparisons, and not constantly to keep our eyes fixed on the countries which we are visiting. On turning back our looks for a moment towards our own country, I see people who are astonished that wax should there be constantly becoming scarcer and dearer, although the prodigious consumption which the churches made of that substance, no longer exists. For my part, I am only astonished that wax is not already at a higher price. Independently of the severe winters, which, within these few years, have caused the hives to perish in our northern provinces, and the very perceptible diminution in the number of persons who applied themselves to the rearing of bees, the trade of the *LEVANT* is lost to us, and every one knows that it was principally from those countries that we received the most considerable part of the wax which was consumed in *FRANCE*. On the other hand, the disorder ever increasing in the Turkish empire, the troubles there subsisting, the partial wars of which some of its provinces are the

the theatre, and the stagnation of trade have also diminished in the LEVANT the number of hives which were there taken care of, and consequently the quantity of wax which was drawn from them. All these circumstances ought to induce us to extend over our territory, restored to the repose of which it has been so long deprived, the rearing of bees, and to find, in our own stock, means to dispense, at least in a very great measure, with the burdensome assistance of foreign countries.

This kind of industry is easy and profitable, and it is an agreeable recreation for whoever loves a country life. It has claims to the encouragement of authority, and that encouragement is simple like its object; it consists only in favour and protection.

CHAPTER XXII.

Carnivorous animals. — Birds of prey. — Serpents. — Tarantula. — Mining spider. — Lizard. — Golden plovers. — Thrushes. — Hydrophobia. — Proscarabæus. — Candia. — Cnoffus. — Gortyna. — Labyrinth. — Retimo. — Harbour of Paleo-Castro. — Sphachiots. — Pyrrhic dance.

AN island, which gave birth to JUPITER, and in which every thing announced the favour and the gratitude of the gods, ought not to contain any thing mischievous, nor feed any noxious animal. The ancients, struck by the numerous allurements of the Island of CANDIA, which they regarded as an abode truly celestial, did not content themselves with saying that no wild beast shed blood on its territory, which is the truth; since, on the supposition that carnivorous quadrupeds had there existed, their races have entirely disappeared, and the useful and innocent ewe is not in fear of seeing its feeble
lamb

lamb carried off by cruel spoilers. But exaggeration has been blended with the accounts of the ancients, or rather with the encomiums that they took a pleasure in scattering over the description of a country of which there is sufficient good to be said, without there being a necessity for having recourse to imaginary advantages. It was asserted that birds of prey even could not there subsist, and that, if any were brought thither, they soon perished. It is unnecessary to premise, that this was carrying the matter a little too far: the bird of prey, whose rapid and continued flight clears great spaces, may very easily arrive in the Island of CANDIA, establish itself, and multiply on the shattered summits of the high rocks with which it is thickly strewn, or on the top of the large trees which tower above its surface: the small game, which there abounds, affords a food easily acquired by birds that live by the death of others; and the nature of their retreats would render it very difficult to dislodge them. And, indeed, birds of prey, and even those whose too tender eye cannot support the brightness of day, and which are addicted only to nocturnal excursions, are there met with rather frequently, although

although the ancients had thence excluded them without just reason.

It is also without foundation that it was formerly asserted, that the Island of CANDIA was exempt from serpents and other venomous animals: PLINY, nevertheless, made an exception in favour of the *phalangium*, or *tarantula*. On a hilly soil, which retains no stagnant waters, and which long rains do not impregnate with too much humidity, the propagation of reptiles and insects cannot be considerable, and there they find not the elements which compose their poison. BÉLON had already observed that three species of serpents were there known: the *ophis*, the *ochendra*, and the *ephloti* *. It is no easy matter to indicate, with precision, what are the species distinguished by these ancient names: to clear up this point of criticism, it would be necessary to enter into discussions, the result of which would afford nothing very satisfactory, or otherwise have beheld these serpents, and this is not the case with me.

The tarantula is here reckoned to be very venomous, and even to occasion death; but

* *Observations de plusieurs singularités et choses mémorables, trouvées en Grèce, &c.*

I have every reason to suspect that there also exists here another species of spider, as dangerous as the tarantula. This is on what I ground my conjectures. Several Frenchmen, who had resided for a long time at CANEA, and even some of the most intelligent Greeks, told me that a spider, whose sting is mortal, was to be found in this country. They could not describe it to me in such a manner as to make me recognise it; but they were acquainted with the tarantula, and they assured me, that the insect of which they were speaking to me differed from it greatly: indeed, they gave me a convincing proof of this difference. It is well known that the tarantula dwells in the ground during the winter, or during the rainy season; and that, in the dry season, it keeps in the air, and spins its web. The spider here in question, on the contrary, though as big as the tarantula, lives constantly in subterraneous retreats: these are small cylindrical cavities, clothed internally with threads, and the entrance of which is closed by a hinged lid, similar to that of a snuff-box. This industrious insect is of the species of the mason-spider, which SAUVAGES discovered in LANGUEDOC, and which has also been

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seen in the Island of CORSICA. For the extremely curious details of the habits of this spider, I refer the reader to a very circumstantial Memoir, which my learned friend LATREILLE has published on this subject, in the *Mémoires de la Société d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris*. He will there see with what implements Nature has provided the insect destined to dig its abode: it carries in its head, above the insertion of the claws, a set of parallel and prominent teeth; it is a sort of rake, with which the animal turns up the earth, and smoothes the walls of its retreat.

Although the mining spider of LANGUEDOC is not reckoned venemous, it would not be extraordinary that it should be so in the EAST; we know that this insect, or at least a species very similar, occasions by its sting very serious accidents in JAMAICA*. However, without being scarce in CANDIA, the mason-spider does not make its appearance there frequently; because, accustomed to live under ground, it dreads the broad day, and issues from its cell only during the night.

* See BROWN, *Natural History of JAMAICA*, tab. XLIV. fig. 4; and the Memoir of LATREILLE respecting mining spiders.

I was also assured that there was, in the same country, a species of lizard very venomous; but I did not see it, and it is only from simple conjecture that I suspect that it might probably be the *gecko**, which is met with in other countries of the EAST, in the vicinity of the Island of CANDIA, and particularly in BARBARY and EGYPT.

It is to this inconsiderable number of mischievous beings that the danger of inhabiting the Island of CANDIA is reduced; and our readers will admit that these are thorns scarcely perceptible, in the midst of the immense and delightful quantity of flowers and charms with which it is rich and brilliant.

All the necessaries of life are there to be found in great plenty; the coasts abound with fish; the plains and the mountains feed a great deal of game, and, above all, a considerable number of red partridges. Birds of passage come and increase the multitude of those beings which man has consecrated to his voracity. Golden plovers are very common at the beginning of the winter; and when the cold begins to be felt, without ever being sufficiently powerful to form

* *Lacerta gecko.* LINN.

ice, the Greeks of the country-places make on the thrushes a successful attack. Those birds all retire into the groves of orange and lemon trees, to pass the night; their pursuers, with deceitful lights, carry alarm into the midst of these sleeping flocks; imagining that it is day, the thrushes quit the foliage, the charming asylum which a cruel snare converts into a scene of death; they are seen flying round the torches, and they are knocked on the head with large wooden battledores. In this manner the peasants fill sacks with them, and carry them to the markets of the towns.

Although the terrible disorder, with the nature of which we are yet so little acquainted, I mean the hydrophobia, is unknown in warmer countries of the East, I have been told that it makes its appearance, but rather seldom indeed, in the Island of CANDIA. DAPPER also mentions that this island has been frequently afflicted by mad dogs, which have from time to time incommoded the inhabitants*. The remedy which the King of PRUSSIA purchased, and caused to be published in 1777, is there

* *Description de l'Archipel.* folio, page 462.

known; and it is very probable that it is from that or some neighbouring country, that the possessor of this pretended secret has obtained it, for it was not a novelty. MATHIOLE has spoken of it from AVICENNE*, and I have been assured that, from time immemorial, the Candiots employed it as a sovereign specific against madness. Our consul at CANEA told me, that as far back as 1776, he had sent to FRANCE the insect which furnishes this specific; whence we must conclude that the pretended discovery of this remedy in EUROPE was nothing more than an imposition.

This insect is the *meloë* or oil-beetle, a species of *proscarabæus* †, the larva of which bears the name of *may-worm*; it is common in our countries; in the spring, it is to be found in gardens, woods, fields, and forests. An oily liquor issues from the body of the insect, when it is touched or crushed. In CANDIA, it is reduced to powder, which the patient swallows; but this remedy possesses a very violent activity; it causes convulsions, pains in the bowels, inflammations,

* *Commentaires sur DIOSCORIDES*, liv. vi.

† *Meloë proscarabæus*. LINN.

agony, bleedings at the nose, bloody urine, and even death, when it is taken in too large a dose. The ancient physicians considered it as a favourable symptom, if the man, attacked by madness, passed blood in his urine*; but such curative means are equivalent to the disorder itself, and the moderns have been in the right to relinquish them.

Although CANEA is the most populous and most trading town of the island, yet it is not the capital. CANDIA has preserved that title, even after it has lost the advantages thence accruing. Its harbour, much frequented in the time of the Venetians, has been choked up from the effect of the general improvidence of the Turks, so that it can now admit only the small barks of the country. Merchant-vessels can no longer enter it but in ballast, or with a fourth of their lading; and if they are under the necessity of taking in their cargo, they must, like the ships of war, repair to *STAN-DIA*, a small island four leagues off, and opposite to CANDIA. This island has preserved its ancient name of *DIA*; for that of *STAN-DIA*, which the European navigators give it, is a compo-

* MATHIEU, at the place quoted.

tion of the Greek words, *eis ten Dias*, to go to *Dia*. Boats convey thither goods on board the shipping.

So great a restraint has reduced to almost nothing the trade of the town of CANDIA; barks bring from CANEA the productions of that part of the island; and shortly, as I have said, the harbour of this latter town will become equally impracticable, and ships, like commerce, will no longer have any point of union, or place to take in their cargoes, but the rocky and uninhabited coast of the Gulf of SUDA.

The town of CANDIA, built on the spot which was occupied by the ancient city of HERACLEA, is situated in a beautiful plain, intersected by sloping hills, which share its fertility. It is the *KHANDAK* of the Arabs; a word derived from *candax*, which, according to some of the learned, signifies *entrenchment*. It is evident, from the buildings in this town, that it is not the work of the Turks; straight streets, regular squares, houses substantially constructed — every thing announces that it owes its existence to the Venetians; but every thing announces, at the same time, both the frightful ravages of war and the slower havock of want. Here
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are still to be seen ruins, the remains of the memorable siege which it sustained, for twenty-three years, against the Ottoman forces. The loss of its commerce has changed its flourishing situation into an unhappy state, and has considerably reduced the number of its inhabitants, who, for the most part, have removed to CANEA, together with the foreign merchants.

It is, nevertheless, still the seat of the general government of the island. The pacha, sent thither by the court of CONSTANTINOPLE, is a pacha with three tails; but, proud of his dignity and of his power, he contents himself with commanding a militia frequently ungovernable: entirely occupied by his private fortune, he thinks only of extending it by exactions, and concerns himself little to re-establish, repair, or procure a few advantages for a country, to which he is a scourge, like the government from which he derives his authority.

Near CANDIA, are lying in the dust the ruins of CNOSSUS, an ancient town where MINOS held his court, and the abode of the most powerful and the most warlike people of the Island of CRETE. A small village, CNOSSOU, would recall to mind the
site

site of the ancient town, were it not discoverable, in a manner no less certain than afflicting, from the rubbish which covers it, and a great part of which has served for the buildings of modern CANDIA.

Some ruins, which occupy a great extent of ground, and still afford fragments of ancient magnificence, are those of GORTYNA, a celebrated town, whose power and splendour eclipsed that of CNOSSUS. Near this spot is seen the labyrinth; it appears not to be that which was famous in antiquity, and particularly from the story or fable of ARIADNE and THESEUS. This latter was near CNOSSUS, and there no longer appear any vestiges of it. The labyrinth of GORTYNA is, according to all appearance, nothing more than immense quarries, such as are to be met with in the vicinity of great towns. Such is the opinion of judicious observers. SAVARY combats it; but every one knows that this writer was not the partisan of simple and natural effects; he took a delight in giving to the objects of antiquity, of which he spoke, a very lofty origin, in order that he might take the opportunity of tracing it, very ably no doubt, but in a very uncertain manner, from events which ages cover with an obscurity that it is not always

easy to penetrate. In truth, in this labyrinth, or rather in these quarries of GORTYNA, there is nothing surprising, and they may be compared to the numerous and immense galleries from which have been taken the stones of the edifices and houses of PARIS.

Between CANEA and CANDIA stands, on the sea-shore, a small town, whose present name of *RETIMO*, is nearly the same as that of *RITHYMNA*, which it formerly bore. Its situation is delightful; the plain which surrounds it is rich in all sorts of provisions; its gardens are very agreeable, and its houses well built; but its harbour is no longer practicable except for the barks of the country; ships remain in the road; yet they anchor there but seldom; and *RETIMO*, which, from its position, the abundance of oil which is collected in its vicinity, and the other productions of its territory, might be an important place of trade, has, as well as *CANDIA*, seen a part of its population pass to *CANEA*.

Independently of the harbour of *SUDA*, there also exists another equally spacious, convenient, and safe, in the most eastern part of the island, in a gulf formed by Cape *SIDERA* and Cape *SOLOMON*; but the coast presents not more habitations than at *SUDA*.

Here are to be seen nothing but ruins, called by the Greeks PALEO CASTRO, a name which they give to all antient towns, a few herdsmen's huts, rocks, and brambles; except a great quantity of red partridges. Contrary winds detained me there for several days, in going to ALEXANDRIA, on board of the ATALANTE frigate, which they had compelled to put into this port. We had with us a felucca. The sight of these two vessels of war so intimidated the shepherds of the coast, that they hastily made their escape, with their flocks, and abandoned to us the soil and their cabins. Not one of them re-appeared during our stay. They probably took our vessels for Turkish vessels, and thus secured themselves from the oppression of their crews. What must be the fate of this interesting and unfortunate people of GREECE, since the sole approach of those, to whom a fatal destiny has subjected them, is in their eyes a dreadful scourge!

I shall not undertake to give a description of a country so vast as the Island of CANDIA; this would be the object of a long work, and I have no intention of carrying the present to too great an extent. What I have said of it is sufficient for presenting the general picture of one of the most beautiful
and

and most smiling countries on earth; and longer details would lead me too far. I shall add but one word respecting the tribe of Greeks who inhabit the mountains of SPACHIA, on the south coast of the island. They speak a purer dialect than the other Greeks, because habituated to the simple and hard life of mountaineers, they have disdained to mix with the nations which have successively occupied their country. They are good warriors, and very dexterous in shooting with a bow; but several disgrace their courage and their skill by giving themselves up to robbery; frequently they lie in ambush behind the rocks which skirt the roads across the mountains; they attack and kill passengers, and are, above all, dreaded by Turkish travellers. It is said that the Sphachiots are the only ones among the Greeks who have preserved the Pyrrhic or warlike dance, which is executed with arms in the hand, and at the same time performing various evolutions. It is not astonishing that nations, to whom the terrible representation of war is a sport and recreation, should have savage manners, and be inclined to realize, by violent actions, scenes which they are in the habit of representing in their amusements.



